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General Assembly

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Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 6 December 2017

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/72/L.10 and A/72/L.10/Add.1)*]

72/74. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 37/4 of 22 October 1982, 38/4 of 28 October 1983, 39/7 of 8 November 1984, 40/4 of 25 October 1985, 41/3 of 16 October 1986, 42/4 of 15 October 1987, 43/2 of 17 October 1988, 44/8 of 18 October 1989, 45/9 of 25 October 1990, 46/13 of 28 October 1991, 47/18 of 23 November 1992, 48/24 of 24 November 1993, 49/15 of 15 November 1994, 50/17 of 20 November 1995, 51/18 of 14 November 1996, 52/4 of 22 October 1997, 53/16 of 29 October 1998, 54/7 of 25 October 1999, 55/9 of 30 October 2000, 56/47 of 7 December 2001, 57/42 of 21 November 2002, 59/8 of 22 October 2004, 61/49 of 4 December 2006, 63/114 of 5 December 2008, 65/140 of 16 December 2010, 67/264 of 17 May 2013 and 69/317 of 10 September 2015,

Recalling also its resolution 3369 (XXX) of 10 October 1975, by which it decided to invite the Organization of the Islamic Conference[1] to participate in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly and of its subsidiary organs in the capacity of observer,

Welcoming the efforts of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, which have been undertaken in coordination with the United Nations and in full respect of the Charter of the United Nations, in strengthening its role in conflict prevention, confidence-building, peacekeeping, conflict resolution and post-conflict rehabilitation, mediation and preventive diplomacy, including conflict situations involving Muslim communities,

Noting the adoption by the Islamic Summit Conference at its thirteenth session, held in Istanbul, Turkey, on 14 and 15 April 2016, of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation 2025 Programme of Action and the adoption on 14 March 2008 by the

[1] On 28 June 2011, the Organization of the Islamic Conference changed its name to the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

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Islamic Summit Conference at its eleventh session, held in Dakar on 13 and 14 March 2008, of the amended Charter of the Organization of the Islamic Conference,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations,[2]

Taking into account the desire of the two organizations to continue to cooperate closely in the political, economic, social, humanitarian, cultural and scientific fields and in their common search for solutions to global problems, such as questions relating to international peace and security, disarmament, self-determination, the promotion of a culture of peace through dialogue and cooperation, decolonization, fundamental human rights, economic and social development, and combating international terrorism,

Recalling the Articles of the Charter of the United Nations that encourage activities through regional cooperation for the promotion of the purposes and principles of the United Nations, and in this regard taking note of the holding on 17 November 2016 of the Security Council briefing on the cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation[3] as well as the high-level meeting of the Council of 28 October 2013 on strengthening the partnership synergy between the United Nations and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and the statement by the President of the Council adopted as an outcome of the meeting,[4] through which the Council, inter alia, recognized and further encouraged the active contribution of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation in the work of the United Nations towards the realization of the purposes and principles embodied in the Charter of the United Nations,

Noting that the Secretary-General, in his report, recognized the strengthening of practical cooperation and the building of complementarity between the United Nations, its specialized agencies, funds and programmes and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, its subsidiary organs and its specialized and affiliated institutions,

Noting also the encouraging progress made in the 10 priority areas of cooperation between the two organizations and their respective agencies and institutions, as well as in the identification of other areas of cooperation between them,

Noting further that the Secretaries-General of the two organizations have met regularly and that consultations among senior officials of the two organizations have enhanced cooperation,

Convinced that the strengthening of cooperation between the United Nations and other organizations of the United Nations system and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and its subsidiary organs, specialized and affiliated institutions and standing committees contributes to the promotion of the purposes and principles of the United Nations,

Taking note of the results of the general meeting of the organizations and agencies of the United Nations system and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and its subsidiary organs and specialized and affiliated institutions, held in Geneva from 11 to 13 May 2016, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 69/317, to review and appraise the level of cooperation in the fields of international peace and security, science and technology, trade and development, implementation of the Sustainable

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[2] A/71/160-S/2016/621.

[3] See S/PV.7813.

[4] S/PRST/2013/16; see *Resolutions and Decisions of the Security Council, 1 August 2013–31 July 2014* (S/INF/69).

Development Goals,[5] protection of and assistance to refugees, human rights, human resource development, food security and agriculture, environment, health and population, arts and crafts, and the promotion of heritage, and of the fact that these meetings are now being held every two years, with the next scheduled for 2018 and to be hosted by the Organization of Islamic Cooperation,

Acknowledging the intention expressed by the representatives of the United Nations and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation to reinforce cooperation and understanding in areas of common interest, noting the commitment of both organizations to fostering a global dialogue for the promotion of tolerance and peace, calling for enhanced cooperation to promote better understanding across countries, religions, cultures and civilizations, and in this regard using, inter alia, the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations as a useful tool in advancing that agenda in international forums, and welcoming the promotion of effective implementation of Human Rights Council resolution 16/18 of 24 March 2011[6] to counter global violence, religious discrimination and intolerance, and in this regard, in particular, the Istanbul Process for Combating Intolerance, Discrimination and Incitement to Hatred and/or Violence on the Basis of Religion or Belief,

Taking into account the strengthened spirit of cooperation reflected in the agreement on a matrix of activities within the framework of United Nations-Organization of Islamic Cooperation collaboration, to be implemented over the next biennium,

Recalling that the Organization of Islamic Cooperation remains an important partner of the United Nations in peace, security and the fostering of a culture of peace at the global level, and noting various decisions reached by the two sides, including the agreement to continue cooperation in conflict prevention and resolution, mediation, peacekeeping and peacebuilding, promotion of good governance at the national and international levels, combating international terrorism, fighting extremism, countering religious intolerance, including Islamophobia, promoting and protecting all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, humanitarian assistance and capacity-building in electoral assistance, and the agreement to improve the follow-up mechanism,

Noting the growing cooperation between the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe on mediation,

Noting also the commitment of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation to building its capacity in the field of conflict prevention and resolution, mediation and preventive diplomacy through conferences, training sessions and workshops delivered by experts and organizations specializing in that field and the organization of "Building Resources in Democracy, Governance and Elections" training courses and round-table discussions on election monitoring at the General Secretariat of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation in February 2014,

Noting further the contribution of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation in promoting intercultural dialogue and understanding within the framework of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations and other initiatives in this regard,

Welcoming the initiatives for interfaith dialogue undertaken by the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and the United Nations, as well as their member States, including the activities of the King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz International Centre for

[5] See resolution 70/1.

[6] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 53* (A/66/53), chap. II, sect. A.

Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue in Vienna, and emphasizing the importance of engaging relevant United Nations agencies in promoting interfaith dialogue and other related activities, as well as General Assembly resolutions 68/127 of 18 December 2013 and 70/109 of 10 December 2015 on a world against violence and violent extremism,

Taking note of the cooperation between the Independent Permanent Commission on Human Rights of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and relevant United Nations bodies, including the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and recognizing the need for further enhancing this cooperation,

Noting the adoption by the sixth Ministerial Conference on the Role of Women in the Development of Member States of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, held in Istanbul from 1 to 3 November 2016, of its revised Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women and its implementation mechanism, and the establishment of the Advisory Women Council, as well as activities of the Department of Family Affairs of the General Secretariat of the Organization to deal specifically with issues concerning women and children, and underscoring the cooperation between the Department and relevant United Nations agencies, including the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women),

Noting with appreciation the close and multifaceted cooperation between the specialized agencies of the United Nations and the specialized and affiliated institutions of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation with a view to strengthening the capacities of the two organizations to address challenges to development and social progress, including ongoing cooperation between the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and the World Health Organization, the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Children's Fund on health issues, as well as discussions between the United Nations Children's Fund and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation on formalizing their partnership through specific initiatives linked to the Sustainable Development Goals, as part of the relevant sections of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation 2025 Programme of Action,

Welcoming the existing cooperation between the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat, including dialogue between the two entities on reaching out to non-governmental organizations and other humanitarian actors in States members of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, as well as participation in joint activities and events and information-sharing, with a view to furthering proactive engagement and implementing concrete programmes in the areas of capacity-building, emergency assistance and strategic partnerships,

Welcoming also the decision taken by the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation at the general meeting of the organizations and agencies of the United Nations system and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and its subsidiary organs and specialized and affiliated institutions, held in Istanbul from 20 to 22 May 2014, to co-organize an event under the auspices of the King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz International Centre for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue on the theme "Countering violent extremism: elements of an effective strategy",

Noting the organization of the brainstorming session to review opportunities for collaboration between the United Nations and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation on the political and security situation in the Middle East, at the General Secretariat of the Organization in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, on 10 and 11 May 2017, and the agreement to organize a similar session on African issues later,

Noting also the request of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation for greater interaction between the secretariats of the United Nations and the Organization extending beyond the current biennial arrangement so as to include periodic reviews of cooperation, in the light of the expanding areas of cooperation between the two organizations,

Noting with appreciation the determination of the two organizations to further strengthen the existing cooperation by developing specific proposals in the designated priority areas of cooperation, as well as in the political field,

1. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the report of the Secretary-General;[2]

2. *Urges* the United Nations system to cooperate with the Organization of Islamic Cooperation in areas of mutual interest, as appropriate;

3. *Notes with satisfaction* the active participation of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation in the work of the United Nations towards the realization of the purposes and principles embodied in the Charter of the United Nations;

4. *Affirms* that the United Nations and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation share a common goal of promoting and facilitating the Middle East peace process so that the process can reach its objective of establishing a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East and also share a common objective of fostering peaceful and political solutions to other conflicts in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the relevant resolutions of the Security Council;

5. *Requests* the United Nations and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation to continue to cooperate in their common search for solutions to global problems, such as questions relating to international peace and security, disarmament, self-determination, promotion of a culture of peace through dialogue and cooperation, decolonization, human rights and fundamental freedoms, countering international terrorism, including violent extremism, addressing conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, capacity-building, health-related issues such as combating pandemic and endemic diseases, protection of the environment, climate change, emergency relief and rehabilitation and technical cooperation;

6. *Welcomes* the strong commitment of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation in the fight against violent extremism and terrorist groups such as Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, Al-Nusrah Front and all other individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with Al-Qaida, affirms the important role of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation in responding, in coordination with the United Nations, to the threat posed by violent extremism, in particular with regard to countering violent extremism and developing counter-narratives, and welcomes the establishment of Sawt Al-Hikma (the Voice of Wisdom) and the Centre for Dialogue, Peace and Understanding within the General Secretariat of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation to delegitimize and deconstruct the extremist narratives and dismantle their contexts, especially through social media;

7. *Also welcomes* the cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation towards combating intolerance and stigmatization of persons based on their religion or belief, recognizes the strong need for global awareness about religious intolerance, condemns any advocacy of religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence, and welcomes cooperation towards addressing the issue with all urgency, including through the Istanbul Process for Combating Intolerance, Discrimination and Incitement to Hatred and/or Violence on the Basis of Religion or Belief;

8. *Invites* increased cooperation and exchanges between the Independent Permanent Commission on Human Rights of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights;

9. *Requests* the secretariats of the two organizations to strengthen cooperation in addressing the social and economic issues that affect the efforts of Member States to eradicate poverty, achieve sustainable development and realize the internationally agreed development goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals;[5]

10. *Welcomes* the efforts of the United Nations and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation to continue to strengthen cooperation between the two organizations in areas of common concern and to review and explore innovative ways and means of enhancing the mechanisms of such cooperation through the recent establishment of a working group;

11. *Affirms* that, to enhance cooperation and for the purpose of the review and appraisal of progress, a general meeting between representatives of the United Nations system and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation should continue to be held once every two years and to include joint inter-agency sectoral or thematic meetings;

12. *Welcomes* the cooperation between the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and the General Secretariat of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation in the area of gender equality and women's empowerment, in particular the signing of a memorandum of understanding on 22 September 2017;

13. *Also welcomes* the cooperation between the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation and the General Secretariat of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, in particular the signing of a memorandum of cooperation on 24 January 2016, which provides, inter alia, for the elaboration of a strategic plan for joint programmes, activities and projects;

14. *Encourages* the United Nations and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and their subsidiary organs, specialized and affiliated institutions and standing committees to intensify actions in creating bilateral frameworks for cooperation in the area of human and industrial capacity development, trade promotion, transportation and tourism;

15. *Invites* the United Nations system to cooperate with the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and its member States in their efforts to implement the internationally agreed development goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals;

16. *Welcomes with appreciation* the continuing cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation in the fields of peacemaking, preventive diplomacy, peacekeeping and peacebuilding, and notes the close cooperation between the two organizations in reconstruction and development in Afghanistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Central African Republic, Mali, Sierra Leone and Somalia;

17. *Welcomes* the efforts of the secretariats of the two organizations to strengthen information exchange, coordination and cooperation between them in areas of mutual interest in the political field and to develop practical modalities for such cooperation;

18. *Notes with satisfaction* the increasing cooperation between the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, which was marked by the opening of the representation

office of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation at the headquarters of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in Paris, and calls upon the two organizations to expand their cooperation in the protection of cultural and historic heritage;

19. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General for his continued efforts to strengthen cooperation and coordination between the United Nations and other organizations of the United Nations system and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and its subsidiary organs, specialized and affiliated institutions and standing committees to serve the mutual interests of the two organizations in the political, economic, social, cultural, humanitarian and scientific fields;

20. *Welcomes* the commitment of the Secretary-General to reinforcing cooperation in areas of common interest between the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and the United Nations, also welcomes the periodic high-level meetings between the Secretaries-General of the United Nations and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, as well as between senior secretariat officials of the two organizations, and encourages their participation in important meetings of the two organizations;

21. *Encourages* the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to continue to expand their cooperation with the subsidiary organs and specialized and affiliated institutions of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, particularly in the fields of science and technology, higher education, health and environment, by negotiating cooperation agreements and through necessary contacts and meetings of the respective focal points for cooperation in priority areas of interest to the United Nations and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation;

22. *Invites* the United Nations and other organizations of the United Nations system, especially the lead agencies, to consider providing increased technical and other forms of assistance to the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and its subsidiary organs, specialized and affiliated institutions and standing committees in order to strengthen their capacities for cooperation;

23. *Invites* the Secretary-General to continue to increase awareness, as appropriate, of the work and activities of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, in accordance with established practice between the United Nations and other regional organizations;

24. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventy-third session on the state of cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation;

25. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-third session, under the item entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations", the sub-item entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation".

65th plenary meeting
6 December 2017

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Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 7 December 2017

[*on the report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) (A/72/444)*]

72/75. Assistance in mine action

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 70/80 of 9 December 2015 and all its previous resolutions on assistance in mine clearance and on assistance in mine action, all adopted without a vote,

Recalling also all relevant treaties and conventions[1] and their review processes,

Noting the twentieth anniversary of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction,[2] and the establishment of both the United Nations Mine Action Service and the Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action,

Noting with appreciation the extent to which the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action has been commemorated worldwide,

Noting all relevant United Nations resolutions that take into account the humanitarian aspects of assistance in mine action,

[1] These include the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction, 1997; the Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby Traps and Other Devices, as amended in 1996 (Protocol II to the 1980 Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects); the Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War, 2003 (Protocol V to the 1980 Convention); the Convention on Cluster Munitions, 2008; the Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts, 1977 (Protocol I); and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, 2006.

[2] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2056, No. 35597.

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Reaffirming its deep concern at the tremendous humanitarian and development impact of mines and explosive remnants of war,[3] in affected countries, which have serious and lasting social and economic consequences for the populations of such countries, including refugees and other displaced persons returning to their homes, as well as persons residing in conflict areas, and which negatively affect the delivery of humanitarian assistance,

Bearing in mind the serious humanitarian risk that mines and explosive remnants of war pose, in affected countries, to the safety, health and lives of local civilian populations, as well as of personnel participating in humanitarian, peacekeeping, rehabilitation and mine clearance programmes and operations,

Expressing alarm at the renewed increase in casualties of mines and explosive remnants of war in conflict and post-conflict situations,

Emphasizing the increased necessity and urgency of strengthening mine action efforts by the international community with a view to eliminating the risk and the humanitarian impact of mines and explosive remnants of war on civilians as soon as possible and to facilitating the safe and unhindered access of humanitarian personnel and the delivery of supplies and equipment, in accordance with the humanitarian principles,

Recognizing the continued progress made in surveying and clearing mines and explosive remnants of war, providing risk education to affected populations and supporting victims,

Noting that, for the purposes of the implementation of the present resolution, improvised explosive devices meeting the definition of mines, booby traps or other devices fall under the scope of mine action when their clearance is undertaken for humanitarian purposes and in areas where major active hostilities have ceased,

Recognizing that, in addition to the primary role of States, the United Nations plays a significant role in the field of assistance in mine action, in particular through the implementation of the Strategy of the United Nations on Mine Action 2013–2018 by members of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action,[4] chaired by the United Nations Mine Action Service at the working level,

Considering mine action to be an important and integrated component of United Nations humanitarian assistance and development activities, and noting the integration of mine action in numerous United Nations peacekeeping operations and special political missions mandated by the Security Council,

Recognizing the contribution of mine action to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[5]

Noting with appreciation the cooperation and coordination of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action with non-governmental organizations and other

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[3] As defined by Protocol V to the 1980 Convention.

[4] Consisting of the United Nations Mine Action Service of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations of the Secretariat, the Office for Disarmament Affairs of the Secretariat, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Office for Project Services, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the World Food Programme and the World Health Organization. The United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research and the World Bank are observers.

[5] Resolution 70/1.

stakeholders through meetings of the Committee on Mine Action,[6] and its active involvement in humanitarian coordination mechanisms, such as the Global Protection Cluster, and encouraging further enhancement of that cooperation,

Recognizing the importance of the full involvement and equal opportunities for participation of both women and men in mine action programmes,

Recognizing also the valuable mine action efforts of national, regional and international mine action practitioners, including United Nations personnel and peacekeepers, and also experts from relevant non-governmental organizations involved in mine action, enabling local communities and mine survivors to resume normal lives and reclaim their livelihoods by regaining access to previously contaminated lands,

Noting with appreciation national, regional and subregional efforts, including the African Union Mine Action and Explosive Remnants of War Strategic Framework 2014–2017,

Noting with satisfaction that humanitarian appeals increasingly include mine action, where relevant, and underlining the importance of considering mine action during the earliest stages of planning and programming, where appropriate, in humanitarian emergency responses, in accordance with the humanitarian principles,

Taking note of the updated United Nations Policy on Victim Assistance in Mine Action, which highlights the significance of integrating victim assistance efforts into broader national and international frameworks, such as the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,[7] as well as the importance of sustained services and support to victims of mines and explosive remnants of war,

Noting the ongoing implementation of the Strategy of the United Nations on Mine Action 2013–2018, including of its monitoring and evaluation mechanism, emphasizing the importance of using evaluation to inform the future direction of mine action within the United Nations, including the role and function of the United Nations Mine Action Service, and encouraging the members of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action to continue their work to improve the impact of the United Nations in the field of mine action,

Noting also the coordination efforts under the informal donor information-sharing forum known as the Mine Action Support Group, which endeavours to coordinate the humanitarian mine action programmes of donor States, harmonizing the prioritization of their respective mine action programmes and increasing donor support for mine action where it is most needed,

Noting further the discussions on the issue of improvised explosive devices of the informal group of experts under the Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby Traps and Other Devices, as amended on 3 May 1996 (Amended Protocol II),[8] and on the technical annex to the Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War (Protocol V)[9] to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects,[10]

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[6] The Committee on Mine Action is an informal information-sharing forum. The members are the Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action, non-governmental organizations involved in mine action, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining and academic institutions.

[7] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2515, No. 44910.

[8] Ibid., vol. 2048, No. 22495.

[9] Ibid., vol. 2399, No. 22495.

[10] Ibid., vol. 1342, No. 22495.

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[11]

2. *Calls upon* Member States to comply with their respective international obligations related to mine action;

3. *Calls*, in particular, for the continuation of the efforts of States, including through South-South, regional and subregional cooperation, with the assistance of the United Nations and relevant organizations involved in mine action, upon request and as appropriate and in coordination with the affected country, to foster the establishment and development of national mine action capacities in countries in which mines and explosive remnants of war constitute a serious threat to the safety, health and lives of the local civilian population or an impediment to the delivery of humanitarian assistance and social and economic development efforts at the national and local levels;

4. *Urges* all States, in particular those that have the capacity to do so, as well as the United Nations system and other relevant organizations and institutions involved in mine action, to support mine-affected States, upon request and as appropriate, by providing:

(a) Assistance to countries affected by mines and explosive remnants of war for the establishment and development of national mine action capacities, including in the fulfilment of the relevant international obligations of those countries;

(b) Support for national programmes, in cooperation with the relevant bodies of the United Nations system and relevant regional, governmental and non-governmental organizations, to reduce the risks posed by mines and explosive remnants of war, taking into consideration the different needs of women, girls, boys and men;

(c) Reliable, predictable, timely and, where possible, multi-annual contributions for mine action activities, including through national mine action efforts and mine action programmes of the United Nations and non-governmental organizations, including those relating to rapid response in humanitarian emergencies, victim assistance and mine risk education, especially at the local level, as well as through relevant national, regional and global trust funds, including the Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action;

(d) Necessary information and technical, financial and material assistance to locate, remove, destroy and otherwise render ineffective minefields, mines and explosive remnants of war, in accordance with international law, as soon as possible;

(e) Technological assistance (i) to countries affected by mines and explosive remnants of war; and (ii) to promote user-oriented scientific research on and development of mine action techniques and technologies that are effective, sustainable, appropriate and environmentally sound;

5. *Encourages* efforts to conduct all mine action activities in accordance with the International Mine Action Standards or national standards compliant with those Standards, and emphasizes the importance of ensuring the accuracy and objectivity of reporting information as well as of using state-of-the-art technologies and an information management system, such as the Information Management System for Mine Action, to help to facilitate mine action activities;

6. *Notes* the ongoing work to further update the International Mine Action Standards;

[11] A/72/226 and A/72/226/Corr.1.

7. *Urges* all mine-affected States, pursuant to applicable international law, to identify all areas, as appropriate, under their jurisdiction or control containing mines and explosive remnants of war in the most efficient manner possible and to employ land release techniques, including non-technical survey, technical survey and clearance when appropriate;

8. *Encourages* mine-affected States, with support from relevant United Nations agencies and development partners as appropriate, to proactively mainstream mine action, including victim assistance requirements and their linkage with health care and disabilities agendas, into development plans and processes to ensure that development priorities include mine action and that mine action, including victim assistance requirements, is predictably funded;

9. *Encourages* all relevant multilateral, regional and national programmes and bodies to include activities related to mine action, including clearance, in their peacebuilding, humanitarian, stabilization, rehabilitation, reconstruction, peace sustainment and development assistance activities, where appropriate, bearing in mind the need to ensure national and local ownership, sustainability and capacity-building, as well as to include a gender- and age-appropriate perspective in all aspects of such activities;

10. *Encourages* States, as appropriate, and relevant organizations involved in mine action to continue efforts to ensure that mine action programmes take into account risk education, the specific needs and requirements of victims and persons with disabilities and are gender- and age-sensitive, so that women, girls, boys and men can benefit equally from them, and also take into account the specific needs of refugees and internally displaced persons, and encourages the participation of all stakeholders, including women, in the programming of mine action;

11. *Urges* States to provide humanitarian assistance for victims of mines and explosive remnants of war and to take measures to spare the civilian population consistent with the principles of international humanitarian law;

12. *Encourages* States to support victims' access to appropriate medical care, physical and sensory rehabilitation, psychosocial support, education and skills training and income-earning opportunities and to provide those services to all, regardless of gender, age or socioeconomic status;

13. *Encourages* the provision of capacity-building assistance to affected countries in order to integrate assistance for victims into their national policy frameworks on health care, social services and disability-inclusive development by relevant United Nations agencies, civil society organizations and other entities with expertise in those matters;

14. *Stresses* the importance of cooperation and coordination in mine action and of devoting existing resources, as appropriate, to that end, emphasizes the primary responsibility of national authorities in that regard, and also stresses the supporting role of the United Nations, with the United Nations Mine Action Service as the coordinator for mine action within the United Nations system, and other relevant organizations in that regard;

15. *Notes with appreciation* the continued partnership and cooperation of the United Nations with regional and subregional organizations, especially the African Union, to mitigate the risk to civilians from mines and explosive remnants of war, including through the Joint United Nations-African Union Framework for an Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security, and encourages in this regard the establishment of partnerships with regional, national and local organizations, as appropriate;

16. *Recognizes* the importance of explicitly incorporating references to mine action, when appropriate, in ceasefire and peace agreements, as well as in the mandates of peacekeeping operations and special political missions, as appropriate, in the light of the potential that mine action can have as a peace- and confidence-building measure in post-conflict situations among the parties concerned and in view of the ongoing dangers faced by peacekeeping personnel and host populations;

17. *Encourages* the United Nations to continue to take measures to improve coordination, efficiency, transparency and accountability, in particular by implementing the Strategy of the United Nations on Mine Action 2013–2018;

18. *Encourages* those States and organizations in a position to do so to support measures by all relevant actors aimed at improving rapid response capacity in humanitarian emergencies, as well as transparency and accountability;

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-fourth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution and on follow-up to previous resolutions on assistance in mine clearance and on assistance in mine action;

20. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-fourth session the item entitled "Assistance in mine action".

66th plenary meeting
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[*on the report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) (A/72/445)*]

72/76. Effects of atomic radiation

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 913 (X) of 3 December 1955, by which it established the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation, and its subsequent resolutions on the subject, in which, inter alia, it requested the Scientific Committee to continue its work,

Concerned about the potentially harmful effects on present and future generations resulting from the levels of radiation to which humankind and the environment are exposed,

Conscious of the continuing need to examine and compile information about atomic and ionizing radiation and to analyse its effects on humankind and the environment, and conscious also of the increased volume, complexity and diversity of that information,

Acknowledging the concerns about the radiological consequences of nuclear accidents,

Reaffirming the desirability of the Scientific Committee continuing its work, and welcoming the increased commitment of States members of the Committee,

Emphasizing the vital need for sufficient, assured and predictable funding, as well as efficient management, of the work of the secretariat of the Scientific Committee to arrange the annual sessions and coordinate the development of documents based on scientific reviews of the sources of ionizing radiation and its effects on human health and the environment,

Recognizing the increasing importance of the scientific work of the Scientific Committee and the need to carry out unforeseen additional work, such as after the accident at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power station,

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Considering that the high quality of the work and the scientific rigour of the Scientific Committee need to be maintained in the future,

Recognizing the importance of disseminating the findings of the Scientific Committee, in particular to the public, and widely publicizing scientific knowledge about atomic radiation, and recalling in that context principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,[1]

Noting the need for the resources of the Scientific Committee to be sufficient, assured and predictable, and recognizing the importance of voluntary contributions to the general trust fund established by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to support the work of the Committee,

Commending the secretariat of the Scientific Committee for its ongoing efforts to ensure the sustainable and effective work of the Committee, and encouraging all States in a position to do so to provide support to the secretariat of the Committee,

Expressing its appreciation to the outgoing Secretary of the Scientific Committee for his personal contribution to the activities of the Committee,

1. *Commends* the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation for the valuable contribution that it has been making since its inception to wider knowledge and understanding of the levels, effects and risks of exposure to ionizing radiation and for fulfilling its original mandate with scientific authority and independence of judgment;

2. *Reaffirms* the decision to maintain the present functions and independent role of the Scientific Committee;

3. *Re-emphasizes* the need for the Scientific Committee to hold regular sessions on an annual basis so that its report will be able to reflect the latest developments and findings in the field of ionizing radiation and thereby provide updated information for dissemination among all States;

4. *Notes with appreciation* the work of the Scientific Committee, and takes note of the report on its sixty-fourth session,[2] including the report on the implementation of its long-term strategic directions, and encourages the Committee, over its coming sessions, to continue to work towards implementing strategies to support its long-term efforts to serve the scientific community, as well as wider audiences;

5. *Appreciates* the arrangements made by the Scientific Committee for activities to follow up on its 2013 evaluation of the levels and effects of radiation exposure due to the nuclear accident after the 2011 great east-Japan earthquake and tsunami, such as the systematic review of scientific information published since the completion of the Committee's evaluation,[3] welcomes the publication of the third review, and encourages the secretariat of the Committee to disseminate the findings of the Committee's systematic reviews, in particular, to the public;

6. *Welcomes* the two substantive scientific evaluations completed by the Scientific Committee during its sixty-fourth session, on the principles and criteria for ensuring the quality of the Committee's reviews of epidemiological studies of radiation exposure and on epidemiological studies of cancer risk due to low-dose-

[1] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

[2] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-second Session, Supplement No. 46* (A/72/46).

[3] Ibid., chap. II, sect. B.1.

rate radiation from environmental sources,[4] looks forward to the publication of the supporting scientific annexes thereto, and appreciates the evaluation of data on thyroid cancer in regions affected by the Chernobyl accident;

7. *Requests* the Scientific Committee to continue its work, including its important activities to increase knowledge of the levels, effects and risks of ionizing radiation from all sources, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventy-third session;

8. *Supports* the intentions and plans of the Scientific Committee for conducting its programme of work of scientific review and assessment on behalf of the General Assembly, in particular its next periodic global surveys of radiation exposure, to be conducted in close cooperation with other relevant organizations, and requests the Committee to submit plans for its ongoing and future programme of work to the Assembly at its seventy-third session;

9. *Welcomes* developments in streamlining procedures for publishing the reports of the Scientific Committee electronically on its official website and as sales publications, and calls upon the secretariat to continue both to monitor the timely publication of those reports and to strive to publish them within the same calendar year as their approval;

10. *Invites* the Scientific Committee to continue its consultations with scientists and experts from interested Member States in the process of preparing its future scientific reports, and requests the secretariat to continue to facilitate such consultations;

11. *Welcomes*, in this context, the readiness of Member States to provide the Scientific Committee with relevant information on the levels and effects of ionizing radiation, and invites the Committee to analyse and give due consideration to such information, particularly in the light of its own findings;

12. *Recalls* the strategy of the Scientific Committee to improve data collection, encourages in this regard Member States, the organizations of the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations concerned to provide further relevant data about levels, effects and risks of radiation exposure from various sources, which would greatly help in the preparation of future reports of the Committee to the General Assembly, and encourages the International Atomic Energy Agency, the World Health Organization, the International Labour Organization and other relevant organizations to further collaborate with the secretariat on arrangements for the collection, analysis and dissemination of data on radiation exposures of patients, workers and the public;

13. *Welcomes* the use and ongoing development by the secretariat of an online platform for collecting data on the exposure of patients and workers, and urges Member States to take part in the Scientific Committee's global surveys of radiation exposure and to nominate a national contact person to facilitate coordination of the collection and submission of data on the exposure of patients, workers and the public within the country;

14. *Takes note* of the Scientific Committee's outreach strategy for the coming years, in particular the enhancement of the website of the Committee and the publication of informative leaflets and posters in all the official languages of the United Nations, and continues to encourage that consideration be given to publishing the website in all of those languages;

[4] Ibid., chap. III.

15. *Requests* the United Nations Environment Programme to continue, within existing resources, to service the Scientific Committee and to disseminate its findings to Member States, the scientific community and the public and to ensure that the administrative measures in place are appropriate, including clear roles and responsibilities of the various actors,[5] so that the secretariat is able to adequately and efficiently service the Committee in a predictable and sustainable manner and effectively facilitate the use of the invaluable expertise offered to the Committee by its members in order that the Committee may discharge the responsibilities and mandate entrusted to it by the General Assembly;

16. *Also requests* the United Nations Environment Programme, in view of the resignation of the current Secretary of the Scientific Committee, to take proactive steps to ensure continuity in the Committee secretariat through the timely appointment of the next Secretary;

17. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to ensure that support for the Scientific Committee is appropriate, sufficient and, where necessary, strengthened, within existing resources, particularly with regard to the deputization of the Secretary and the avoidance of disruptions in staffing, and to report to the General Assembly at its seventy-third session on these issues;

18. *Encourages* Member States in a position to do so to make voluntary contributions to the general trust fund established by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and also to make contributions in kind, in order to support the work of the Scientific Committee, and the dissemination of its findings, in a sustainable manner;

19. *Takes note* of the list provided by the Secretary-General, pursuant to paragraph 18 of General Assembly resolution 71/89 of 6 December 2016, of Member States that had expressed, by 11 September 2017, their interest in membership in the Scientific Committee, namely, Algeria, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Norway and the United Arab Emirates,[6] and invites each of these Member States to designate one scientist to attend the sixty-fifth session of the Committee as an observer;

20. *Decides* to review the possible increase in the membership of the Scientific Committee with a view to establishing a procedure at the seventy-third session of the General Assembly for possible further increases in membership of the Committee, and to apply this procedure with regard to the list referred to in paragraph 19 above, pursuant to paragraph 19 of Assembly resolution 66/70 of 9 December 2011.

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[5] Ibid., chap. II, sect. E, para. 39.
[6] A/72/557.

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General Assembly

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Seventy-second session
Agenda item 52

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 7 December 2017

[on the report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) (A/72/446)]

72/77. International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 51/122 of 13 December 1996, 54/68 of 6 December 1999, 59/2 of 20 October 2004, 61/110 and 61/111 of 14 December 2006, 62/101 of 17 December 2007, 62/217 of 22 December 2007, 65/97 of 10 December 2010, 65/271 of 7 April 2011, 66/71 of 9 December 2011, 67/113 of 18 December 2012, 68/50 of 5 December 2013, 68/74 and 68/75 of 11 December 2013, 69/85 of 5 December 2014, 70/1 of 25 September 2015, 70/82 of 9 December 2015, 70/230 of 23 December 2015 and 71/90 of 6 December 2016,

Emphasizing the significant progress in the development of space science and technology and their applications that has enabled humans to explore the universe, and the extraordinary achievements made in space exploration efforts, including deepening the understanding of the planetary system and the Sun and the Earth itself, in the use of space science and technology for the benefit of all humankind and in the development of the international legal regime governing space activities,

Recognizing, in that regard, the unique platform at the global level for international cooperation in space activities represented by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and Legal Subcommittee and assisted by the Office for Outer Space Affairs of the Secretariat,

Deeply convinced of the common interest of all humankind in promoting and expanding the exploration and use of outer space, as the province of all humankind, for peaceful purposes and in continuing efforts to extend to all Member States the benefits derived therefrom, and also of the importance of international cooperation in this field, for which the United Nations should continue to provide a focal point,

Reaffirming the importance of international cooperation in developing the rule of international law, including the relevant norms of international space law and their

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important role in international cooperation for the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes, and of the widest possible adherence to international treaties that promote the peaceful uses of outer space in order to meet emerging new challenges, especially for developing countries,

Seriously concerned about the possibility of an arms race in outer space, and bearing in mind the importance of article IV of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies,[1]

Recognizing that all Member States, in particular those with major space capabilities, should contribute actively to the prevention of an arms race in outer space with a view to promoting and strengthening international cooperation in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes,

Deeply concerned about the fragility of the space environment and the challenges to the long-term sustainability of outer space activities, in particular the impact of space debris, which is an issue of concern to all nations,

Noting the progress achieved in the development of peaceful space exploration and applications as well as in various national and cooperative space projects, and the importance of further developing the legal framework to strengthen international cooperation in space,

Convinced that space science and technology and their applications, including satellite communications, Earth observation systems and satellite navigation technologies, provide indispensable tools for viable long-term solutions for sustainable development and can contribute more effectively to efforts to promote the development of all countries and regions of the world, and stressing in that regard the need to harness the benefits of space technology towards implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[2]

Seriously concerned about the devastating impact of disasters,[3] and desirous of enhancing international coordination and cooperation at the global level in disaster management and emergency response through greater access to and use of space-based services and geospatial information for all countries and facilitating capacity-building and institutional strengthening for disaster management, in particular in developing countries,

Firmly convinced that the use of space science and technology and their applications in areas such as tele-health, tele-education, disaster management, environmental protection, natural resources management and ocean and climate monitoring contribute to achieving the objectives of the global conferences of the United Nations that address various aspects of economic, social and cultural development, particularly poverty eradication,

Deeply concerned about the devastating effects of infectious diseases, including Ebola virus disease, to the detriment of human life, society and development, and urging the international community to enhance the role of space-based solutions, in particular tele-epidemiology, in monitoring, preparedness and response activities,

Recalling the fact that the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, recognized the important role that space science and technology play in promoting sustainable development,[4]

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[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 610, No. 8843.

[2] Resolution 70/1.

[3] The term "disasters" refers to natural or technological disasters.

[4] Resolution 66/288, annex, para. 274.

Having considered the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on the work of its sixtieth session,[5]

1. *Endorses* the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on the work of its sixtieth session;[5]

2. *Agrees* that the Committee, at its sixty-first session, should consider the substantive items recommended at its sixtieth session,[6] taking into account the concerns of all countries, in particular those of developing countries;

3. *Notes* that, at its fifty-sixth session, the Legal Subcommittee of the Committee continued its work,[7] as mandated by the General Assembly in its resolution 71/90;

4. *Agrees* that the Legal Subcommittee, at its fifty-seventh session, should consider the substantive items and reconvene the working groups recommended by the Committee,[8] taking into account the concerns of all countries, in particular those of developing countries;

5. *Urges* Member States that have not yet become parties to the international treaties governing the uses of outer space[9] to give consideration to ratifying or acceding to those treaties in accordance with their national law, as well as incorporating them into their national legislation;

6. *Notes with satisfaction* that the space law curriculum developed by the Office for Outer Space Affairs of the Secretariat and published in all official languages of the United Nations could encourage further studies within Member States in cooperation with relevant entities in support of capacity-building efforts in space law and policy;

7. *Takes note* of the report of the Working Group on the Review of International Mechanisms for Cooperation in the Peaceful Exploration and Use of Outer Space on the work conducted under its multi-year workplan,[10] as finalized at the fifty-sixth session of the Legal Subcommittee, and notes that the report provides an important source of information and useful guidance for further joint undertakings by spacefaring nations and emerging space nations, as appropriate;

8. *Notes* that, at its fifty-fourth session, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the Committee continued its work,[11] as mandated by the General Assembly in its resolution 71/90;

9. *Agrees* that the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, at its fifty-fifth session, should consider the substantive items and reconvene the working groups

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[5] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-second Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/72/20).

[6] Ibid., para. 349.

[7] Ibid., chap. II.C; see also A/AC.105/1122.

[8] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-second Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/72/20), paras. 244–246.

[9] Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies (United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 610, No. 8843); Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts and the Return of Objects Launched into Outer Space (United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 672, No. 9574); Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects (United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 961, No. 13810); Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space (United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1023, No. 15020); and Agreement Governing the Activities of States on the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies (United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1363, No. 23002).

[10] A/AC.105/C.2/112.

[11] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-second Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/72/20), chap. II.B; see also A/AC.105/1138.

recommended by the Committee,[12] taking into account the concerns of all countries, in particular those of developing countries;

10. *Reiterates* the importance of information-sharing in discovering, monitoring and physically characterizing potentially hazardous near-Earth objects to ensure that all countries, in particular developing countries with limited capacity for predicting and mitigating a near-Earth object impact, are aware of potential threats, emphasizes the need for capacity-building for effective emergency response and disaster management in the event of a near-Earth object impact, and notes with satisfaction the work carried out by the International Asteroid Warning Network and the Space Mission Planning Advisory Group to strengthen international cooperation to mitigate the potential threat posed by near-Earth objects, with the support of the Office, serving as the permanent secretariat of the Advisory Group;[13]

11. *Notes with appreciation* that some Member States are already implementing space debris mitigation measures on a voluntary basis, through national mechanisms and consistent with the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines of the Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee and with the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space,[14] endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 62/217, and invites other Member States to implement, through relevant national mechanisms, the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space;

12. *Considers* that it is essential that Member States pay more attention to the problem of the gradually increasing probability of collisions of space objects, especially those with nuclear power sources, with space debris, and other aspects of space debris, calls for the continuation of national research on this question, for the development of improved technology for the monitoring of space debris and for the compilation and dissemination of data on space debris, also considers that, to the extent possible, information thereon should be provided to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, and agrees that international cooperation is needed to expand appropriate and affordable strategies to minimize the impact of space debris on future space missions;

13. *Urges* all Member States, in particular those with major space capabilities, to contribute actively to the goal of preventing an arms race in outer space as an essential condition for the promotion of international cooperation in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes;

14. *Requests* the Committee to continue to consider, as a matter of priority, ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventy-third session, and agrees that the Committee should continue to consider the broader perspective of space security and associated matters that would be instrumental in ensuring the safe and responsible conduct of space activities, including ways to promote international, regional and interregional cooperation to that end;

15. *Emphasizes* the significant role of the Office in promoting international cooperation in the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space for economic, social and scientific development, in particular for the benefit of developing countries;

16. *Notes with satisfaction* the programme of work undertaken by the Office in 2017 to strengthen international cooperation in the conduct of space activities for

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[12] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-second Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/72/20), paras. 164 and 165.

[13] See A/AC.105/1138, paras. 205–210.

[14] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/62/20), annex.

peaceful purposes and the use of space science and technology and their applications towards the achievement of the internationally agreed Sustainable Development Goals, including the workshops and symposiums conducted to build capacity, the assistance provided to developing countries, at their request, in the development of national space policy and legislation in conformity with international space law, and actions implemented to strengthen institutional capacity in space activities;

17. *Requests* the Office to continue to apprise the Committee and its Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and Legal Subcommittee, at their respective sessions in 2018, of the status of its capacity-building activities;

18. *Recognizes* the capacity-building activities under the United Nations Programme on Space Applications, which provide unique benefits for Member States, in particular developing countries, participating in those activities;[15]

19. *Notes with satisfaction* the activities carried out under the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER), and recognizes the significant achievements made and the advisory support provided to 40 Member States within the framework of UN-SPIDER since its establishment in 2006[16] with the valuable contributions of its network of regional support offices, and encourages Member States, on a voluntary basis, to provide the programme with the additional resources necessary to address the increasing demand for support successfully and in a timely manner;

20. *Reiterates* the importance of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030,[17] in which the value of space-based technology and Earth observation for disaster management and emergency response is recognized, and notes with satisfaction the efforts of the Office and its UN-SPIDER programme towards promoting international cooperation as a way to enhance the use of space-based technologies and related services at the national and local levels in contributing to the implementation of the Sendai Framework and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;[2]

21. *Notes with satisfaction* the continuous progress made by the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems with the support of the Office, in its capacity as executive secretariat of the International Committee, towards achieving compatibility and interoperability among global and regional space-based positioning, navigation and timing systems and in the promotion of the use of global navigation satellite systems and their integration into national infrastructure, particularly in developing countries, and notes with appreciation that the International Committee will hold its twelfth meeting in Kyoto, Japan, from 2 to 7 December 2017;

22. *Notes with appreciation* that the regional centres for space science and technology education, affiliated to the United Nations, namely, the African regional centres for space science and technology education in the French and English languages, located in Morocco and Nigeria, respectively, the Regional Centre for Space Science and Technology Education for Asia and the Pacific, located in China, the Centre for Space Science and Technology Education in Asia and the Pacific, located in India, the Regional Centre for Space Science and Technology Education for Latin America and the Caribbean, with campuses located in Brazil and Mexico, and the Centre for Space Science and Technology Education for Western Asia, located in Jordan, have continued their education programmes in 2017, encourages the regional centres to continue to promote greater participation of women in their

[15] See A/AC.105/1138, sect. II.

[16] Resolution 61/110.

[17] Resolution 69/283, annex II.

education programmes, and agrees that the regional centres should continue to report to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on their activities;

23. *Emphasizes* that regional and interregional cooperation in the field of space activities is essential to strengthen the peaceful uses of outer space, assist Member States in the development of their space capabilities and contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, to that end requests relevant regional organizations and their groups of experts to offer the assistance necessary so that countries can carry out the recommendations of regional conferences, and in that regard notes the importance of the equal participation of women in all fields of science and technology;

24. *Recognizes*, in that regard, the important role played by such organizations as the Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization and the European Space Agency and by conferences and other mechanisms, such as the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum and the Space Conference of the Americas, in strengthening regional and international cooperation among Member States;

25. *Welcomes* the adoption of the African Space Policy and Strategy by the Assembly of the African Union at its twenty-sixth ordinary session, held in Addis Ababa on 30 and 31 January 2016, and notes that this achievement marks the first step towards the realization of an African outer space programme within the framework of the African Union Agenda 2063;

26. *Emphasizes* the need to increase the benefits of space technology and its applications and to contribute to an orderly growth of space activities favourable to sustained economic growth and sustainable development in all countries, including strengthening sustainable spatial data infrastructure at the regional and national levels and building resilience to reduce the consequences of disasters, in particular in developing countries;

27. *Reiterates* the need to promote the benefits of space technology and its applications in the major United Nations conferences and summits for economic, social and cultural development and related fields, and recognizes that the fundamental significance of space science and technology and their applications for global, regional, national and local sustainable development processes should be promoted in the formulation of policies and programmes of action and their implementation, including through efforts towards achieving the objectives of those conferences and summits and in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

28. *Encourages* Member States, to that end, to promote the inclusion in those conferences, summits and processes of the relevance of space science and technology applications and the use of space-derived geospatial data, with the involvement of the Office;

29. *Encourages* the Office to take active part in those conferences, summits and processes and other activities in support of the objectives, as appropriate, and to conduct capacity-building activities, hold lectures and participate in academic and research activities to foster international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space;

30. *Urges* the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities (UN-Space), under the leadership of the Office, to continue to examine how space science and technology and their applications could contribute to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and encourages entities of the United Nations system to participate, as appropriate, in UN-Space coordination efforts;

31. *Encourages* the Office to continue to conduct capacity-building and outreach activities associated with space security and transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities, as appropriate, and within the context of the long-term sustainability of outer space activities;

32. *Also encourages* the Office to continue exploring existing avenues and new opportunities to increase its capability to meet the growing demand for support to strengthen the capacity of countries, in particular developing countries, in using space science and technology and their applications and to inform the Committee of those efforts;

33. *Agrees* that the Office should pursue greater engagement with industry and private sector entities to further their support for and contributions to the overall work of the Office;[18]

34. *Appeals* to Governments, the relevant entities of the United Nations system, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, institutions, industry and private sector entities and individuals to make voluntary contributions to the trust fund in support of the United Nations Programme on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in order to support the efforts of the Office to secure additional resources to facilitate the full implementation of its programme of work, including, where appropriate, the financing of special projects, and otherwise to assist the Office in carrying out technical cooperation and assistance activities, in particular for developing countries;

35. *Decides* that Bahrain, Denmark and Norway shall become members of the Committee;

36. *Endorses* the decision of the Committee to grant permanent observer status to the European Science Foundation, represented by the European Space Sciences Committee, and the University Space Engineering Consortium-Global;[19]

37. *Encourages* the regional groups to promote active participation in the work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its subsidiary bodies by the States members of the Committee that are also members of the respective regional groups.

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[18] *See Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-second Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/72/20), para. 326.

[19] Ibid., paras. 345 and 347.

United Nations A/RES/72/78

General Assembly

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Seventy-second session
Agenda item 52

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 7 December 2017

[*on the report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) (A/72/446)*]

72/78. Declaration on the fiftieth anniversary of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies

The General Assembly

Adopts the following declaration:

Declaration on the fiftieth anniversary of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies

We, the States Members of the United Nations, in observing the fiftieth anniversary of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies,[1]

1. Reiterate the importance of the principles contained in General Assembly resolution 1962 (XVIII) of 13 December 1963, entitled "Declaration of Legal Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space";

2. Recall that the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, was adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 2222 (XXI) of 19 December 1966, was opened for signature in London, Moscow and Washington, D.C., on 27 January 1967, and entered into force on 10 October 1967;

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 610, No. 8843.

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3. Note that, as at 1 January 2017, 105 States had become parties to the Treaty and an additional 25 States had signed it;

4. Reaffirm the fundamental role played by the Treaty in maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes and in furthering the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, in the interest of maintaining international peace and security and promoting international cooperation and understanding;

5. Are convinced that the Treaty and its principles, as reflected in its articles I to XIII, will continue to provide an indispensable framework for the conduct of outer space activities, which continue to hold immense potential to deliver further advancements in human knowledge, to drive socioeconomic progress for all humankind and to contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030;

6. Recognize that the achievements made in space exploration and the development of space science and technology for the benefit of all humankind, and international cooperation initiatives to those ends, have exceeded all expectations existing at the time of the adoption of the Treaty;

7. Acknowledge that there has been a significant rise in the importance to States of space science and technology applications, which enable greater understanding of the universe and of the Earth and contribute to advances in, inter alia, education, health, environmental monitoring, the management of natural resources on Earth, disaster management, meteorological forecasting, climate modelling, the protection of cultural heritage, information technology and satellite navigation and communications, and to the well-being of humanity through economic, social and cultural development;

8. Are deeply convinced that strengthening the long-term sustainability of outer space activities requires efforts at the national, regional, interregional and international levels;

9. Emphasize the constantly evolving and increasingly multifaceted nature of international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space, with fundamentally complex scientific and technological advancements in the space field and an increasing variety of actors in the space arena, and therefore encourage the building of stronger partnership, cooperation and coordination;

10. Recognize the need for further promotion of international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space, taking into account the particular needs of developing countries;

11. Call upon all States parties to the Treaty conducting outer space activities to work under the principles of cooperation and mutual assistance, paying due regard to the corresponding interests of other parties to the Treaty;

12. Are inspired by the prospects that continue to open up before humankind as a result of human activities in outer space;

13. Encourage States that have not yet become parties to the Treaty, in particular those States that are members of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, to consider becoming party to it;

14. Emphasize, in this regard, that the benefits arising from adherence to the Treaty, as part of the legal regime of outer space, are significant for all States, irrespective of the degree of their economic or scientific development, and that being party to the Treaty would enhance the ability of States to become part of international cooperation efforts in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes;

15. Reiterate the role of the Treaty as the cornerstone of the international legal regime governing outer space activities and that the Treaty manifests the fundamental principles of international space law;

16. Affirm that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, together with its Legal Subcommittee and Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, has a distinguished historical record in the establishment and further development of the international legal regime governing outer space activities, that under that regime, outer space activities by States, international intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental entities are flourishing and that, as a result, space science and technology and their applications contribute immeasurably to economic growth and improvements in the quality of life around the world;

17. Call upon the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its Legal Subcommittee to continue, with the support of the Office for Outer Space Affairs of the Secretariat, to promote the widest adherence to the Treaty, and its application by States, and to foster the progressive development of international space law;

18. Request the Office for Outer Space Affairs to continue fostering capacity-building in space law and policy for the benefit of all countries and to continue providing assistance to developing countries, at their request, in the development of national space policy and legislation, in conformity with international space law.

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7 December 2017

United Nations A/RES/72/79

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Agenda item 52

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 7 December 2017

[*on the report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) (A/72/446)*]

72/79. Consideration of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 2453 A (XXIII) of 20 December 1968, 37/90 of 10 December 1982, 54/68 of 6 December 1999 and 59/2 of 20 October 2004,

Recognizing the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE+50), to be commemorated in 2018, as an opportunity to consider the current status of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and to chart its future contribution to the global governance of outer space activities,[1]

Taking note with satisfaction of the work of the Committee, its subsidiary bodies and the Office for Outer Space Affairs of the Secretariat towards the implementation of the seven thematic priorities of UNISPACE+50, including the related objectives and mechanisms, agreed by the Committee at its fifty-ninth session,[2]

Emphasizing the significance of the high-level segment of UNISPACE+50, to be held on 20 and 21 June 2018 during the sixty-first session of the Committee, which will be open to all States Members of the United Nations and at which concrete deliverables and outcomes are to be concluded for presentation to the General Assembly in the form of a resolution to be considered at its seventy-third session, including on the "Space2030" agenda and its implementation plan for strengthening the contribution of space activities and space tools to the achievement of the global agendas addressing long-term development concerns of humankind based on the peaceful exploration and use of outer space,[3]

[1] See A/AC.105/L.297 and A/AC.105/1137.

[2] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-first Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/71/20), para. 296.

[3] Ibid., *Seventy-second Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/72/20), paras. 321–324.

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Convinced that UNISPACE+50 offers a unique opportunity for Member States to reflect on more than 50 years of achievement in space exploration and to look towards the future by strengthening the mandates of the Committee, its subsidiary bodies and the Office as unique platforms for international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space,

1. *Decides* to consider in plenary meeting at its seventy-third session an agenda item entitled "Space as a driver of sustainable development" in the context of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE+50);

2. *Requests* the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to submit a draft resolution on the outcomes of UNISPACE+50 for the consideration of the General Assembly, in plenary meeting, at its seventy-third session;

3. *Decides* that the plenary meeting or meetings shall be held immediately after the consideration by the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) of the agenda item on international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space;

4. *Endorses* the decisions of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space relating to the preparations for UNISPACE+50, including the holding of intersessional consultations from 7 to 11 May 2018, open to all States Members of the United Nations.[4]

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[4] Ibid., paras. 324 and 328.

United Nations A/RES/72/80

General Assembly

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Seventy-second session
Agenda item 53

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 7 December 2017

[*on the report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) (A/72/447)*]

72/80. Assistance to Palestine refugees

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 194 (III) of 11 December 1948 and all its subsequent resolutions on the question, including resolution 71/91 of 6 December 2016,

Recalling also its resolution 302 (IV) of 8 December 1949, by which, inter alia, it established the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East,

Recalling further the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

Aware of the fact that, for more than six decades, the Palestine refugees have suffered from the loss of their homes, lands and means of livelihood,

Affirming the imperative of resolving the problem of the Palestine refugees for the achievement of justice and for the achievement of lasting peace in the region,

Acknowledging the essential role that the Agency has played for over 65 years since its establishment in ameliorating the plight of the Palestine refugees through the provision of education, health, relief and social services and ongoing work in the areas of camp infrastructure, microfinance, protection and emergency assistance,

Taking note of the report of the Commissioner-General of the Agency covering the period from 1 January to 31 December 2016,[1]

Taking note also of the report of the Commissioner-General of 30 June 2017, submitted pursuant to paragraph 57 of the report of the Secretary-General[2] and in follow-up to the update to the special report of 3 August 2015 of the Commissioner-General submitted pursuant to paragraph 21 of General Assembly

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-second Session, Supplement No. 13* (A/72/13/Rev.1).
[2] A/71/849.

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resolution 302 (IV),[3] and expressing concern regarding the severe financial crisis of the Agency and the negative implications for the continued delivery of core programmes to the Palestine refugees in all fields of operation,

Aware of the growing needs of the Palestine refugees throughout all the fields of operation, namely, Jordan, Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic and the Occupied Palestinian Territory,

Expressing grave concern at the especially difficult situation of the Palestine refugees under occupation, including with regard to their safety, well-being and socioeconomic living conditions,

Expressing grave concern in particular at the grave humanitarian situation and socioeconomic conditions of the Palestine refugees in the Gaza Strip, and underlining the importance of emergency and humanitarian assistance and urgent reconstruction efforts,

Noting the signing of the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements on 13 September 1993 by the Government of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization[4] and the subsequent implementation agreements,

1. *Notes with regret* that repatriation or compensation of the refugees, as provided for in paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 194 (III), has not yet been effected, and that, therefore, the situation of the Palestine refugees continues to be a matter of grave concern and the Palestine refugees continue to require assistance to meet basic health, education and living needs;

2. *Also notes with regret* that the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine has been unable to find a means of achieving progress in the implementation of paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 194 (III), and reiterates its request to the Conciliation Commission to continue exerting efforts towards the implementation of that paragraph and to report to the Assembly on the efforts being exerted in this regard as appropriate, but no later than 1 September 2018;

3. *Affirms* the necessity for the continuation of the work of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East and the importance of its unimpeded operation and its provision of services, including emergency assistance, for the well-being, protection and human development of the Palestine refugees and for the stability of the region, pending the just resolution of the question of the Palestine refugees;

4. *Calls upon* all donors to continue to strengthen their efforts to meet the anticipated needs of the Agency, including with regard to increased expenditures and needs arising from conflicts and instability in the region and the serious socioeconomic and humanitarian situation, particularly in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, and those needs mentioned in recent emergency, recovery and reconstruction appeals and plans for the Gaza Strip and in the regional crisis response plans to address the situation of Palestine refugees in the Syrian Arab Republic and those Palestine refugees who have fled to countries in the region;

5. *Commends* the Agency for its provision of vital assistance to the Palestine refugees and its role as a stabilizing factor in the region and the tireless efforts of the staff of the Agency in carrying out its mandate.

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[3] A/7612, annex.

[4] A/48/486-S/26560, annex.

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Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 7 December 2017

[on the report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) (A/72/447)]

72/81. Persons displaced as a result of the June 1967 and subsequent hostilities

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 2252 (ES-V) of 4 July 1967, 2341 B (XXII) of 19 December 1967 and all subsequent related resolutions,

Recalling also Security Council resolutions 237 (1967) of 14 June 1967 and 259 (1968) of 27 September 1968,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General submitted in pursuance of its resolution 71/92 of 6 December 2016,[1]

Taking note also of the report of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East covering the period from 1 January to 31 December 2016,[2]

Concerned about the continuing human suffering resulting from the June 1967 and subsequent hostilities,

Taking note of the relevant provisions of the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements of 13 September 1993[3] with regard to the modalities for the admission of persons displaced in 1967, and concerned that the process agreed upon has not yet been effected,

Taking note also of its resolution 67/19 of 29 November 2012,

[1] A/72/313.

[2] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-second Session, Supplement No. 13* (A/72/13/Rev.1).

[3] A/48/486-S/26560, annex.

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1. *Reaffirms* the right of all persons displaced as a result of the June 1967 and subsequent hostilities to return to their homes or former places of residence in the territories occupied by Israel since 1967;

2. *Stresses* the necessity for an accelerated return of displaced persons, and calls for compliance with the mechanism agreed upon by the parties in article XII of the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements of 13 September 1993[3] on the return of displaced persons;

3. *Endorses*, in the meantime, the efforts of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East to continue to provide humanitarian assistance, as far as practicable, on an emergency basis, and as a temporary measure, to persons in the area who are currently displaced and in serious need of continued assistance as a result of the June 1967 and subsequent hostilities;

4. *Strongly appeals* to all Governments and to organizations and individuals to contribute generously to the Agency and to the other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned for the above-mentioned purposes;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General, after consulting with the Commissioner-General, to report to the General Assembly before its seventy-third session on the progress made with regard to the implementation of the present resolution.

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United Nations A/RES/72/82

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Agenda item 53

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 7 December 2017

[*on the report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) (A/72/447)*]

72/82. Operations of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 194 (III) of 11 December 1948, 212 (III) of 19 November 1948, 302 (IV) of 8 December 1949 and all subsequent related resolutions, including its resolution 71/93 of 6 December 2016,

Recalling also the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

Having considered the report of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East covering the period from 1 January to 31 December 2016,[1]

Taking note of the letter dated 25 May 2017 from the Chair of the Advisory Commission of the Agency addressed to the Commissioner-General,[2] and noting the extraordinary meeting of the Commission held on 8 September 2016,

Underlining that, at a time of heightened conflict and instability in the Middle East, the Agency continues to play a vital role in ameliorating the plight of the Palestine refugees through the provision of, inter alia, essential education, health, relief and social services programmes and emergency assistance to a registered population of more than 5.3 million refugees whose situation has become extremely precarious, in mitigating the consequences of alarming trends, including increasing violence, marginalization and poverty, in the areas of operation, and in providing a crucial measure of stability in the region,

Deeply concerned about the extremely critical financial situation of the Agency, caused by the structural underfunding of the Agency, as well as by rising

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-second Session, Supplement No. 13* (A/72/13/Rev.1).

[2] Ibid., pp. 7–9.

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needs and expenditures resulting from the deterioration of the socioeconomic and humanitarian conditions and the conflicts and rising instability in the region and their significant negative impact on the ability of the Agency to deliver essential services to the Palestine refugees, including its emergency, recovery, reconstruction and development programmes in all fields of operation,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the operations of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East,[3] submitted pursuant to resolution 71/93, and the request contained therein for broad consultations to explore all ways and means, including through voluntary and assessed contributions, to ensure that the Agency's funding is sufficient, predictable and sustained for the duration of its mandate, and considering the recommendations contained in the report,

Taking note also of the report of 30 June 2017 of the Commissioner-General, submitted pursuant to paragraph 57 of the report of the Secretary-General and in follow-up to the update to the special report of 3 August 2015 of the Commissioner-General,[4] submitted pursuant to paragraph 21 of General Assembly resolution 302 (IV), regarding the severe financial crisis of the Agency and the negative implications for the continued delivery of core Agency programmes to the Palestine refugees in all fields of operation,

Expressing appreciation for the efforts of donors and host countries to respond to the Agency's financial crisis, including through continued and, where possible, increased voluntary contributions, while acknowledging the steadfast support of all other donors to the Agency,

Noting that contributions have not been predictable enough or sufficient to meet growing needs and remedy the persistent shortfalls that are undermining the Agency's operations and efforts to promote human development and meet Palestine refugees' basic needs, and stressing the need for further efforts to comprehensively address the recurrent funding shortfalls affecting the Agency's operations,

Recognizing the Agency's efforts to develop innovative and diversified means to mobilize resources, including through partnerships with international financial institutions, the private sector and civil society,

Commending the Agency for the measures taken to address the financial crisis, despite difficult operational circumstances, including through the implementation of the medium-term strategy for 2016–2021 and various internal measures to contain expenditures, reduce operational and administrative costs, maximize the use of resources and reduce the funding shortfalls, and expressing profound concern that, despite such measures, the Agency's programme budget, which is funded primarily by voluntary contributions from Member States and intergovernmental organizations, faces persistent shortfalls that are increasingly threatening the delivery of the Agency's core programmes of assistance to the Palestine refugees,

Encouraging the Agency to sustain those reform efforts, while also taking all possible measures to protect and improve the quality of access to and the delivery of core programmes of assistance,

Recalling its resolution 65/272 of 18 April 2011, in which it requested the Secretary-General to continue to support the institutional strengthening of the Agency,

[3] A/71/849.

[4] A/70/272, annex.

Stressing the need to support the Agency's capacity to uphold its mandate and to avert the serious humanitarian, political and security risks that would result from any interruption or suspension of its vital work,

Recognizing that the recurring and growing financial shortfalls directly affecting the sustainability of the Agency's operations need to be remedied by examining new funding modalities designed to put the Agency on a stable financial footing to enable it to effectively carry out its core programmes in accordance with its mandate and commensurate with humanitarian needs,

Welcoming the affirmation in the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, adopted by the General Assembly on 19 September 2016,[5] that, inter alia, the Agency, along with other relevant organizations, requires sufficient funding to be able to carry out its activities effectively and in a predictable manner,

Bearing in mind the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[6] including the pledge that no one will be left behind, emphasizing that the Sustainable Development Goals apply to all, including refugees, and commending the efforts of the Agency's programmes to promote 10 of the 17 Goals, as indicated in the report of the Secretary-General,

Welcoming the joint efforts of host countries and donors to mobilize support for the Agency, including the ministerial meetings convened on 26 September 2015 and 4 May 2016, at the high-level conference convened on 2 June 2015 in New York to commemorate the sixty-fifth anniversary of the commencement of the Agency's operations and at other high-level meetings,

Welcoming also the support for the Agency affirmed at the high-level meeting convened by the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, and co-sponsored by Jordan and Sweden, on 22 September 2017, aimed at urgently addressing the Agency's funding shortfall and contributing towards the expansion of donor support for the Agency,

Recalling Articles 100, 104 and 105 of the Charter of the United Nations and the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations,[7]

Recalling also the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel,[8]

Recalling further its resolutions 71/129 of 8 December 2016 on the safety and security of humanitarian personnel and protection of United Nations personnel and 71/127 of 8 December 2016 on the strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations, calling upon, inter alia, all States to ensure respect for and the protection of all humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel, to respect the principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence for the provision of humanitarian assistance and to respect and ensure respect for the inviolability of United Nations premises,

Affirming the applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,[9] to the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, including East Jerusalem,

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[5] Resolution 71/1.
[6] Resolution 70/1.
[7] Resolution 22 A (I).
[8] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2051, No. 35457.
[9] Ibid., vol. 75, No. 973.

Aware of the continuing needs of the Palestine refugees in all fields of operation, namely Jordan, Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic and the Occupied Palestinian Territory,

Gravely concerned about the extremely difficult socioeconomic conditions being faced by the Palestine refugees in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, particularly in the refugee camps in the Gaza Strip, as a result of the recurrent military operations, continuing prolonged Israeli closures, the construction of settlements and the wall, evictions, the demolition of homes and livelihood properties causing forced transfers of civilians, and the severe economic and movement restrictions that in effect amount to a blockade, which have deepened unemployment and poverty rates among the refugees, with potentially lasting, long-term negative effects, while taking note of developments with regard to the situation of access there,

Deploring the continuing and negative repercussions of the conflicts in and around the Gaza Strip, the most recent in July and August 2014, and the thousands of civilian casualties caused, as well as the widespread destruction of or damage to thousands of homes and vital civilian infrastructure, the internal displacement of hundreds of thousands of civilians and any violations of international law, including humanitarian and human rights law, in this regard,

Expressing grave concern, in this regard, about the lasting impact on the humanitarian and socioeconomic situation of the Palestine refugees in the Gaza Strip, including high rates of food insecurity, poverty, displacement and the depletion of coping capacities, and taking note in this regard of the United Nations country team reports of 26 August 2016, entitled "Gaza: two years after" and of July 2017, entitled "Gaza ten years later" and the alarming conditions and figures documented therein,

Deploring attacks affecting United Nations installations, including Agency schools sheltering displaced civilians, and all other breaches of the inviolability of United Nations premises during the conflict in the Gaza Strip in July and August 2014, as reported in the summary by the Secretary-General of the report of the Board of Inquiry[10] and by the independent commission of inquiry established pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution S-21/1,[11] and stressing the imperative of ensuring accountability,

Commending the Agency for its extraordinary efforts to provide shelter, emergency relief, medical, food, protection and other humanitarian assistance during the military operations of July and August 2014,

Recalling the temporary tripartite agreement facilitated by the United Nations in September 2014, and stressing the urgent need for the lifting of all Israeli closures and restrictions on the Gaza Strip and for the reconstruction of destroyed homes and infrastructure,

Recalling also its resolution ES-10/18 of 16 January 2009 and Security Council resolution 1860 (2009) of 8 January 2009, as well as the Agreement on Movement and Access of 15 November 2005,

Calling upon Israel to ensure the expedited and unimpeded import of all necessary construction materials into the Gaza Strip and to reduce the burdensome cost of importation of Agency supplies, while taking note of recent developments with regard to the tripartite agreement facilitated by the United Nations,

[10] S/2015/286, annex.

[11] See A/HRC/29/52.

Expressing concern about the continuing classroom shortage in the Gaza Strip and the consequent negative impact on the right to education of refugee children,

Stressing the urgent need for the advancement of reconstruction in the Gaza Strip, including by ensuring the timely facilitation of construction projects, including extensive shelter repair, and the need for the accelerated implementation of other urgent United Nations-led civilian reconstruction activities,

Welcoming contributions made to the Agency's emergency appeals for the Gaza Strip, and calling urgently upon the international community for continued support in accordance with the Agency's strategic response plan,

Urging the full disbursement of pledges made at the Cairo International Conference on Palestine: Reconstructing Gaza, held on 12 October 2014, for ensuring the provision of the necessary humanitarian assistance and accelerating the reconstruction process,

Stressing that the situation in the Gaza Strip is unsustainable and that a durable ceasefire agreement must lead to a fundamental improvement in the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip, including through the sustained and regular opening of crossing points, and must ensure the safety and well-being of civilians on both sides,

Affirming the need to support the Palestinian national consensus Government in its assumption of full government responsibilities in both the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, in all fields, as well as through its presence at Gaza's crossing points,

Noting with appreciation the progress made towards rebuilding the Nahr el-Bared refugee camp, commending the Government of Lebanon, donors, the Agency and other parties concerned for the continuing efforts to assist affected and displaced refugees, and emphasizing the need for the funding required to complete the reconstruction of the camp and end without delay the displacement from the camp of thousands of residents whose shelters have not been rebuilt,

Expressing deep concern at the critical situation of Palestine refugees in the Syrian Arab Republic and at the impact of the crisis on the Agency's installations and its ability to deliver its services, and regretting profoundly the loss of life and widespread displacement among refugees and the killing of 19 staff members of the Agency in the crisis since 2012,

Emphasizing the continuing need for assistance to Palestine refugees in the Syrian Arab Republic as well as those who have fled to neighbouring countries, and emphasizing the necessity of ensuring open borders for Palestine refugees fleeing the crisis in the Syrian Arab Republic, consistent with the principles of non-discrimination and non-refoulement under international law, and recalling in this regard the statement by the President of the Security Council of 2 October 2013[12] and the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants,

Aware of the valuable work done by the Agency in providing protection to the Palestinian people, in particular Palestine refugees, and recalling the need for the protection of all civilians in situations of armed conflict,

Deploring the endangerment of the safety of the Agency's staff and the damage and destruction caused to the facilities and properties of the Agency during the period covered by the report of the Commissioner-General,[1] and stressing the need to maintain the neutrality and safeguard the inviolability of United Nations premises, installations and equipment at all times,

[12] S/PRST/2013/15; see *Resolutions and Decisions of the Security Council, 1 August 2013–31 July 2014* (S/INF/69).

Deploring also the breaches of the inviolability of United Nations premises, the failure to accord the property and assets of the Organization immunity from any form of interference and the failure to protect United Nations personnel, premises and property,

Deploring further the killing and injury of Agency staff members by the Israeli occupying forces in the Occupied Palestinian Territory since September 2000, including the 11 Agency personnel killed during the military operations in the Gaza Strip in July and August 2014,

Deploring the killing and wounding of refugee children and women sheltering in the Agency schools by the Israeli occupying forces during the military operations of July and August 2014,

Affirming the need for accountability and compensation to victims of violations of international law in accordance with international standards by all sides,

Deeply concerned about the continuing imposition of restrictions on the freedom of movement and access of the Agency's staff, vehicles and goods, and the injury, harassment and intimidation of the Agency's staff, which undermine and obstruct the work of the Agency, including its ability to provide essential basic and emergency services,

Recalling the statement of 15 July 1999 and the declarations adopted on 5 December 2001 and on 17 December 2014[13] by the Conference of High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention, including the call upon parties to facilitate the activities of the Agency, to guarantee its protection and to refrain from levying taxes and imposing undue financial burdens,

Aware of the agreement between the Agency and the Government of Israel,

Taking note of the agreement reached on 24 June 1994, embodied in an exchange of letters between the Agency and the Palestine Liberation Organization,[14]

1. *Reaffirms* that the effective functioning of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East remains essential in all fields of operation;

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Commissioner-General of the Agency, as well as to all the staff of the Agency, for their tireless efforts and valuable work, particularly in the light of the difficult conditions, instability and crises faced during the past year;

3. *Expresses special commendation* to the Agency for the essential role that it has played for more than 65 years since its establishment in providing vital services for the well-being, human development and protection of the Palestine refugees and the amelioration of their plight and for the stability of the region, and affirms the necessity for continuing the work of the Agency and its unimpeded operation and provision of services, pending the just resolution of the question of the Palestine refugees;

4. *Commends* the Agency for its extraordinary efforts, in cooperation with other United Nations agencies on the ground, to provide emergency humanitarian assistance, including shelter, food and medical aid, to refugees and affected civilians during and since the military operations in the Gaza Strip in July and August 2014, and recognizes its exemplary capacity to mobilize in emergency situations while continuously carrying out its core human development programmes;

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[13] A/69/711-S/2015/1, annex.

[14] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 13* (A/49/13), annex I.

5. *Expresses its appreciation* for the important support and cooperation provided by the host Governments to the Agency in the discharge of its duties;

6. *Also expresses its appreciation* to the Advisory Commission of the Agency, and requests it to continue its efforts and to keep the General Assembly informed of its activities;

7. *Takes note* of the report of the Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East[15] and the efforts to assist in ensuring the financial security of the Agency, and requests the Secretary-General to provide the necessary services and assistance to the Working Group for the conduct of its work;

8. *Commends* the Agency for its six-year medium-term strategy for 2016–2021 and the Commissioner-General for his continuing efforts to increase the budgetary transparency and efficiency of the Agency, as reflected in the Agency's programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019;[16]

9. *Also commends* the Agency for sustaining its robust internal reform efforts, despite difficult operational circumstances, and recognizes its implementation of maximum efficiency procedures to contain expenditures, reduce operational and administrative costs, reduce its funding shortfalls and maximize the use of resources;

10. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the operations of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East[1] and the conclusions and recommendations contained therein;

11. *Appeals* to States and organizations for the maintenance of their voluntary contributions to the Agency, as well as an increase in contributions where possible, in particular to the Agency's programme budget, including in the consideration of their allocation of resources for international human rights, peace and stability, development and humanitarian efforts, to support the Agency's mandate and its ability to meet the rising needs of the Palestine refugees and essential associated costs of operations;

12. *Appeals* to States and organizations not currently contributing to the Agency to urgently consider making voluntary contributions in response to the calls of the Secretary-General for expansion of the Agency's donor base, in order to stabilize funding and ensure greater sharing of the financial burden of supporting the Agency's operations, in accordance with the continuing responsibility of the international community as a whole to assist the Palestine refugees;

13. *Calls for* the provision by donors of early annual voluntary contributions, less earmarking, and multi-year funding, in line with the Grand Bargain on humanitarian financing announced at the World Humanitarian Summit, held in Istanbul, Turkey, in May 2016, in order to enhance the Agency's ability to plan and implement its operations with a greater degree of assurance regarding resource flows;

14. *Also calls for* the full and timely funding by donors of the Agency's emergency, recovery and reconstruction programmes as set out in its appeals and response plans;

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[15] A/72/326.

[16] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-second Session, Supplement No. 13A* (A/72/13/Add.1).

15. *Requests* the Commissioner-General to continue efforts to maintain and increase traditional donor support and to enhance income from non-traditional donors, including through partnerships with public and private entities;

16. *Encourages* the Agency to explore financing avenues in relation to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals;[6]

17. *Urges* States and organizations to actively pursue partnerships with and innovative support for the Agency, including as recommended in paragraphs 47, 48 and 50 of the report of the Secretary-General, including through the establishment of endowments, trust funds or revolving fund mechanisms and assistance to the Agency to access humanitarian, development and peace and security trust funds and grants;

18. *Welcomes* pledges by States and organizations to provide diplomatic and technical support to the Agency, including engagement with international and financial development institutions, including the World Bank and the Islamic Development Bank, and, where appropriate, to facilitate support for the establishment of financing mechanisms that can provide assistance to refugees and in fragile contexts, including to meet the needs of the Palestine refugees, and calls for serious follow-up efforts;

19. *Requests* the Agency to continue to implement efficiency measures through its medium-term strategy and the development of a five-year proposal for stabilizing the Agency's finances, including specific and time-bound measures, and to continue to improve its cost efficiency and resource mobilization efforts;

20. *Calls upon* the members of the Advisory Commission and the Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East to consider the relevant recommendations in the report of the Secretary-General, including to help the Agency to address resource mobilization challenges and to actively assist the Commissioner-General in the efforts to create sustainable, sufficient and predictable support for the Agency's operations;

21. *Takes note* of the recommendations of the Secretary-General regarding the support provided to the Agency from the regular budget of the United Nations;

22. *Endorses* the efforts of the Commissioner-General to continue to provide humanitarian assistance, as far as is practicable, on an emergency basis and as a temporary measure, to persons in the area who are internally displaced and in serious need of continuing assistance as a result of recent crises in the Agency's fields of operation;

23. *Encourages* the Agency to provide increased assistance, in accordance with its mandate, to affected Palestine refugees in the Syrian Arab Republic as well as to those who have fled to neighbouring countries, as detailed in the Syrian regional crisis response plans, and calls upon donors to urgently ensure sustained support to the Agency in this regard in the light of the continuing grave deterioration of the situation and the growing needs of the refugees;

24. *Welcomes* the progress made thus far by the Agency in rebuilding the Nahr el-Bared refugee camp in northern Lebanon, and calls for donor funding to enable the expeditious completion of its reconstruction, for the continued provision of relief assistance to those displaced following its destruction in 2007 and for the alleviation of their ongoing suffering through the provision of the necessary support and financial assistance until the reconstruction of the camp is complete;

25. *Encourages* the Agency, in close cooperation with other relevant United Nations entities, to continue to make progress in addressing the needs, rights and

protection of children, women and persons with disabilities in its operations, including through the provision of necessary psychosocial and humanitarian support, in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[17] the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[18] and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;[19]

26. *Also encourages* the Agency to continue to reduce the vulnerability and improve the self-reliance and resilience of Palestine refugees through its programmes;

27. *Recognizes* the acute protection needs of Palestine refugees across the region, and encourages the Agency's efforts to contribute to a coordinated and sustained response in accordance with international law, including the Agency's development of its protection framework and function in all field offices, including for child protection;

28. *Commends* the Agency for its provision of humanitarian and psychosocial support and other initiatives that provide recreational, cultural and educational activities for children in all fields, including in the Gaza Strip, and, recognizing their positive contribution, calls for full support for such initiatives by donor and host countries and encourages the building and strengthening of partnerships to facilitate and enhance the provision of these services;

29. *Calls upon* Israel, the occupying Power, to comply fully with the provisions of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949;[7]

30. *Also calls upon* Israel to abide by Articles 100, 104 and 105 of the Charter of the United Nations and the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations[8] in order to ensure the safety of the personnel of the Agency, the protection of its institutions and the safeguarding of the security of its facilities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, at all times;

31. *Takes note* of the investigations into the incidents affecting the Agency's facilities during the conflict in the Gaza Strip in July and August 2014, and calls for ensuring accountability for all violations of international law;

32. *Urges* the Government of Israel to expeditiously reimburse the Agency for all transit charges incurred and other financial losses sustained as a result of the delays and restrictions on movement and access imposed by Israel;

33. *Calls upon* Israel particularly to cease obstructing the movement and access of the staff, vehicles and supplies of the Agency and to cease levying taxes, extra fees and charges, which affect the Agency's operations detrimentally;

34. *Reiterates its call upon* Israel to fully lift the restrictions impeding or delaying the import of necessary construction materials and supplies for the reconstruction and repair of thousands of damaged or destroyed refugee shelters, and for the implementation of suspended and urgently needed civilian infrastructure projects in refugee camps in the Gaza Strip, noting the alarming figures reflected in the United Nations country team reports of 26 August 2016, entitled "Gaza: two years after" and of July 2017, entitled "Gaza ten years later";

35. *Requests* the Commissioner-General to proceed with the issuance of identification cards for Palestine refugees and their descendants in the Occupied Palestinian Territory;

[17] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.
[18] Ibid., vol. 1249, No. 20378.
[19] Ibid., vol. 2515, No. 44910.

16. *Notes with appreciation* the positive contribution of the Agency's microfinance and job creation programmes, encourages efforts to enhance the sustainability and benefits of microfinance services to a greater number of Palestine refugees, especially in view of the high unemployment rates affecting them, and youth in particular, welcomes the Agency's efforts to streamline costs and increase microfinance services through internal reform efforts, and calls upon the Agency, in close cooperation with the relevant agencies, to continue to contribute to the development of the economic and social stability of the Palestine refugees in all fields of operation;

17. *Reiterates its appeals* to all States, the specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations to continue and to augment their contributions to the programme budget of the Agency, to increase their special allocations for grants and scholarships for higher education to Palestine refugees and to contribute to the establishment of vocational training centres for Palestine refugees, and requests the Agency to act as the recipient and trustee for the special allocations for grants and scholarships;

18. *Calls upon* the Commissioner-General to include, in the annual reporting to the General Assembly, assessments on the progress made to remedy the recurrent funding shortfalls of the Agency and ensure sustained, sufficient and predictable support for the Agency's operations, including through the implementation of the relevant provisions of the present resolution.

66th plenary meeting
7 December 2017

United Nations A/RES/72/83

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Agenda item 53

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 7 December 2017

[*on the report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) (A/72/447)*]

72/83. Palestine refugees' properties and their revenues

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 194 (III) of 11 December 1948 and 36/146 C of 16 December 1981 and all its subsequent resolutions on the question,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General submitted pursuant to its resolution 71/94 of 6 December 2016,[1] as well as that of the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine for the period from 1 September 2016 to 31 August 2017,[2]

Recalling that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights[3] and the principles of international law uphold the principle that no one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his or her property,

Recalling in particular its resolution 394 (V) of 14 December 1950, in which it directed the Conciliation Commission, in consultation with the parties concerned, to prescribe measures for the protection of the rights, property and interests of the Palestine refugees,

Noting the completion of the programme of identification and evaluation of Arab property, as announced by the Conciliation Commission in its twenty-second progress report,[4] and the fact that the Land Office had a schedule of Arab owners and a file of documents defining the location, area and other particulars of Arab property,

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[1] A/72/334.
[2] A/72/332.
[3] Resolution 217 A (III).
[4] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Nineteenth Session, Annexes, Annex No. 11*, document A/5700.

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Expressing its appreciation for the preservation and modernization of the existing records, including the land records, of the Conciliation Commission, and stressing the importance of such records for a just resolution of the plight of the Palestine refugees in conformity with resolution 194 (III),

Recalling that, in the framework of the Middle East peace process, the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Government of Israel agreed, in the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements of 13 September 1993,[1] to commence negotiations on permanent status issues, including the important issue of the refugees,

1. *Reaffirms* that the Palestine refugees are entitled to their property and to the income derived therefrom, in conformity with the principles of equity and justice;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take all appropriate steps, in consultation with the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine, for the protection of Arab property, assets and property rights in Israel;

3. *Calls once again upon* Israel to render all facilities and assistance to the Secretary-General in the implementation of the present resolution;

4. *Calls upon* all the parties concerned to provide the Secretary-General with any pertinent information in their possession concerning Arab property, assets and property rights in Israel that would assist him in the implementation of the present resolution;

5. *Urges* the Palestinian and Israeli sides, as agreed between them, to deal with the important issue of Palestine refugees' properties and their revenues within the framework of the final status peace negotiations;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventy-third session on the implementation of the present resolution.

66th plenary meeting
7 December 2017

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[1] A/48/486-S/26560, annex.

United Nations A/RES/72/84

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Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 7 December 2017

[*on the report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) (A/72/448)*]

72/84. Work of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories

The General Assembly,

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Guided also by international humanitarian law, in particular the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,[1] as well as international standards of human rights, in particular the Universal Declaration of Human Rights[2] and the International Covenants on Human Rights,[3]

Recalling its relevant resolutions, including resolutions 2443 (XXIII) of 19 December 1968 and 71/95 of 6 December 2016, and the relevant resolutions of the Human Rights Council, including resolutions S-12/1 of 16 October 2009,[4] S-21/1 of 23 July 2014[5] and 29/25 of 3 July 2015,[6]

Recalling also the relevant resolutions of the Security Council, including resolution 2334 (2016) of 23 December 2016,

Taking into account the advisory opinion rendered on 9 July 2004 by the International Court of Justice on the legal consequences of the construction of a

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, No. 973.
[2] Resolution 217 A (III).
[3] Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.
[4] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 53A* (A/64/53/Add.1), chap. I.
[5] Ibid., *Sixty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 53* (A/69/53), chap. VI.
[6] Ibid., *Seventieth Session, Supplement No. 53* (A/70/53), chap. II.

17-22113 (E) 181217

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wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory,[7] and recalling in this regard its resolution ES-10/15 of 20 July 2004,

Recalling the statement of 15 July 1999 and the declarations adopted on 5 December 2001 and on 17 December 2014[8] by the Conference of High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention, and welcoming initiatives by States parties, both individually and collectively, according to article 1 of the Convention and aimed at ensuring respect for the Convention in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

Recalling also its resolution 58/292 of 6 May 2004,

Taking note of the report of the independent international fact-finding mission to investigate the implications of the Israeli settlements on the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of the Palestinian people throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,[9]

Taking note also of Human Rights Council resolution 31/36 of 24 March 2016,[10]

Convinced that occupation itself represents a gross and grave violation of human rights,

Noting with deep regret that 50 years have passed since the onset of the Israeli occupation, and stressing the urgent need for efforts to reverse the negative trends on the ground and to restore a political horizon for advancing and accelerating meaningful negotiations aimed at the achievement of a peace agreement that will bring a complete end to the Israeli occupation that began in 1967 and the resolution of all core final status issues, without exception, leading to a peaceful, just, lasting and comprehensive solution for the question of Palestine,

Recognizing that the occupation and ensuing persistent and systematic violations of international law by Israel, including international humanitarian and human rights law, are considered to be the main sources of other Israeli violations and discriminatory policies against the Palestinian civilian population in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

Gravely concerned about the continuing detrimental impact of ongoing unlawful Israeli practices and measures in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, including the excessive use of force by the Israeli occupying forces against Palestinian civilians, resulting in the death and injury of civilians and the widespread destruction of property and vital infrastructure, including during the Israeli military operations in the Gaza Strip in July and August 2014, as well as ongoing settlement activities and construction of the wall, the internal forced displacement of civilians, the imposition of collective punishment measures, particularly against the civilian population in the Gaza Strip, where continuing severe restrictions on movement amount to a blockade, and the detention and imprisonment of thousands of Palestinians,

Expressing grave concern about tensions, instability and violence in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, due to the illegal policies and practices of Israel, the occupying Power, including, in particular, provocations and incitements regarding the holy places of Jerusalem, including the Haram al-Sharif,

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[7] See A/ES-10/273 and A/ES-10/273/Corr.1.

[8] A/69/711-S/2015/1, annex.

[9] A/HRC/22/63.

[10] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-first Session, Supplement No. 53* (A/71/53), chap. IV, sect. A.

Gravely concerned about all acts of violence, intimidation and provocation by Israeli settlers against Palestinian civilians and properties, including homes, mosques, churches and agricultural lands,

Gravely concerned also by reports regarding serious human rights violations and grave breaches of international humanitarian law committed during the military operations in the Gaza Strip between December 2008 and January 2009 and in July and August 2014, including the findings in the summary by the Secretary-General of the report of the Board of Inquiry[11] and in the report of the United Nations Fact-Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict,[12]

Recalling the report of the independent commission of inquiry established pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution S-21/1,[13] and stressing the imperative of ensuring accountability for all violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law in order to end impunity, ensure justice, deter further violations, protect civilians and promote peace,

Having considered the report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories[14] and the relevant reports of the Secretary-General,[15]

Recalling the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements of 13 September 1993[16] and the subsequent implementation agreements between the Palestinian and Israeli sides,

Stressing the urgency of bringing a complete end to the Israeli occupation that began in 1967 and thus an end to the violation of the human rights of the Palestinian people, and of allowing for the realization of their inalienable human rights, including their right to self-determination and their independent State,

Taking note of the application of Palestine for admission to membership in the United Nations, submitted on 23 September 2011,[17]

Recalling its resolution 67/19 of 29 November 2012, by which, inter alia, Palestine was accorded non-member observer State status in the United Nations, and taking note of the follow-up report of the Secretary-General,[18]

Noting the accession by Palestine to several human rights treaties and the core humanitarian law conventions, as well as other international treaties,

1. *Commends* the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories for its impartiality and efforts in performing the tasks assigned to it by the General Assembly in spite of the obstruction of its mandate;

2. *Reiterates its demand* that Israel, the occupying Power, cooperate, in accordance with its obligations as a State Member of the United Nations, with the Special Committee in implementing its mandate, and deplores the continued lack of cooperation in this regard;

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[11] See A/63/855-S/2009/250.
[12] A/HRC/12/48.
[13] A/HRC/29/52.
[14] A/72/539.
[15] A/72/296, A/72/314, A/72/538, A/72/564 and A/72/565.
[16] A/48/486-S/26560, annex.
[17] A/66/371-S/2011/592.
[18] A/67/738.

3. *Deplores* those policies and practices of Israel that violate the human rights of the Palestinian people and other Arabs of the occupied territories, as reflected in the report of the Special Committee covering the reporting period;[14]

4. *Expresses grave concern* about the critical situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, particularly in the Gaza Strip, as a result of unlawful Israeli practices and measures, and especially condemns and calls for the immediate cessation of all illegal Israeli settlement activities and the construction of the wall, the lifting of the blockade of the Gaza Strip, as well as a complete cessation of the excessive and indiscriminate use of force and military operations against the civilian population, settler violence, the destruction and confiscation of properties, including home demolitions as a measure of reprisal, the forced displacement of civilians, all measures of collective punishment, and the detention and imprisonment of thousands of civilians;

5. *Requests* the Special Committee, pending complete termination of the Israeli occupation, to continue to investigate Israeli policies and practices in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967, especially Israeli violations of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,[3] and to consult, as appropriate, with the International Committee of the Red Cross according to its regulations in order to ensure that the welfare and human rights of the peoples of the occupied territories, including prisoners and detainees, are safeguarded and to report to the Secretary-General as soon as possible and whenever the need arises thereafter;

6. *Also requests* the Special Committee to submit regularly to the Secretary-General periodic reports on the current situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem;

7. *Further requests* the Special Committee to continue to investigate the treatment and status of the thousands of prisoners and detainees, including children, women and elected representatives, in Israeli prisons and detention centres in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967, and expresses grave concern about harsh conditions and ill-treatment of prisoners and recent hunger strikes, stressing the need for respect for all applicable rules of international law, including the Fourth Geneva Convention,[3] the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules)[19] and the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules);[20]

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General:

(a) To provide the Special Committee with all necessary facilities, including those required for its visits to the occupied territories, so that it may investigate the Israeli policies and practices referred to in the present resolution;

(b) To utilize his good offices to facilitate and support the Special Committee in carrying out its mandate;

(c) To continue to make available such staff as may be necessary to assist the Special Committee in the performance of its tasks;

(d) To circulate regularly to Member States the periodic reports mentioned in paragraph 6 above;

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[19] Resolution 70/175, annex.

[20] Resolution 65/229, annex.

(e) To ensure the widest circulation of the reports of the Special Committee and of information regarding its activities and findings, by all means available, through the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat and, where necessary, to reprint those reports of the Special Committee that are no longer available;

9. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-third session the item entitled "Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories".

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[on the report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) (A/72/448)]

72/85. Applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the other occupied Arab territories

The General Assembly,

Recalling its relevant resolutions, including resolution 71/96 of 6 December 2016,

Bearing in mind the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

Recalling the Regulations annexed to the Hague Convention IV of 1907, the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,[1] and relevant provisions of customary law, including those codified in Additional Protocol I[2] to the four Geneva Conventions,[3]

Having considered the report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories[4] and the relevant reports of the Secretary-General,[5]

Considering that the promotion of respect for the obligations arising from the Charter of the United Nations and other instruments and rules of international law is among the basic purposes and principles of the United Nations,

Recalling the advisory opinion rendered on 9 July 2004 by the International Court of Justice,[6] and also recalling General Assembly resolution ES-10/15 of 20 July 2004,

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[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, No. 973.
[2] Ibid., vol. 1125, No. 17512.
[3] Ibid., vol. 75, Nos. 970–973.
[4] A/72/539.
[5] A/72/296, A/72/314, A/72/538, A/72/564 and A/72/565.
[6] See A/ES-10/273 and A/ES-10/273/Corr.1.

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Noting in particular the Court's reply, including that the Fourth Geneva Convention[1] is applicable in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and that Israel is in breach of several of the provisions of the Convention,

Recalling the Conference of High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention on measures to enforce the Convention in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, held on 15 July 1999, as well as the declarations adopted by the reconvened Conference on 5 December 2001 and on 17 December 2014,[2] and the urgent need for the parties to follow up the implementation of those declarations,

Welcoming and encouraging the initiatives by States parties to the Convention, both individually and collectively, according to article 1 common to the four Geneva Conventions, aimed at ensuring respect for the Convention, as well as the continuing efforts of the depositary State of the Geneva Conventions in this regard,

Noting the accession by Palestine on 1 April 2014 to the Geneva Conventions and Additional Protocol I,

Stressing that Israel, the occupying Power, should comply strictly with its obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law,

1. *Reaffirms* that the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,[3] is applicable to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967;

2. *Demands* that Israel accept the de jure applicability of the Convention in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967, and that it comply scrupulously with the provisions of the Convention;

3. *Calls upon* all High Contracting Parties to the Convention, in accordance with article 1 common to the four Geneva Conventions[3] and as mentioned in the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice of 9 July 2004,[4] to continue to exert all efforts to ensure respect for its provisions by Israel, the occupying Power, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967;

4. *Notes* the reconvening by Switzerland, the depositary State, of the Conference of High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention on 17 December 2014, and calls for efforts to uphold the obligations reaffirmed in the declarations adopted on 5 December 2001 and 17 December 2014;[2]

5. *Welcomes* initiatives by States parties, in accordance with article 1 of the Convention, aimed at ensuring respect for the Convention;

6. *Reiterates* the need for speedy implementation of the relevant recommendations contained in the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly, including at its tenth emergency special session and including resolution ES-10/15, with regard to ensuring respect by Israel, the occupying Power, for the provisions of the Convention;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventy-third session on the implementation of the present resolution.

66th plenary meeting
7 December 2017

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[1] A/69/711-S/2015/1, annex.

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[on the report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) (A/72/448)]

72/86. Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the occupied Syrian Golan

The General Assembly,

Guided by the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and affirming the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force,

Recalling its relevant resolutions, including resolution 71/97 of 6 December 2016, as well as those resolutions adopted at its tenth emergency special session,

Recalling also the relevant resolutions of the Security Council, including resolutions 242 (1967) of 22 November 1967, 446 (1979) of 22 March 1979, 465 (1980) of 1 March 1980, 476 (1980) of 30 June 1980, 478 (1980) of 20 August 1980, 497 (1981) of 17 December 1981, 904 (1994) of 18 March 1994 and 2334 (2016) of 23 December 2016,

Reaffirming the applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,[1] to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and to the occupied Syrian Golan,

Affirming that the transfer by the occupying Power of parts of its own civilian population into the territory it occupies constitutes a breach of the Fourth Geneva Convention[1] and relevant provisions of customary law, including those codified in Additional Protocol I[2] to the four Geneva Conventions,[3]

Recalling the advisory opinion rendered on 9 July 2004 by the International Court of Justice on the legal consequences of the construction of a wall in the

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, No. 973.
[2] Ibid., vol. 1125, No. 17512.
[3] Ibid., vol. 75, Nos. 970–973.

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Occupied Palestinian Territory,[4] and recalling also General Assembly resolutions ES-10/15 of 20 July 2004 and ES-10/17 of 15 December 2006,

Noting that the International Court of Justice concluded that "the Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (including East Jerusalem) have been established in breach of international law",[5]

Taking note of the recent reports of the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967,[6]

Recalling the report of the independent international fact-finding mission to investigate the implications of the Israeli settlements on the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of the Palestinian people throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,[7]

Recalling also the statement of 15 July 1999 and the declarations adopted on 5 December 2001 and on 17 December 2014[8] by the Conference of High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention on measures to enforce the Convention in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, aimed at ensuring respect for the Convention in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

Recalling further the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements of 13 September 1993[9] and the subsequent implementation agreements between the Palestinian and Israeli sides,

Recalling the Quartet road map to a permanent two-State solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict,[10] and emphasizing specifically its call for a freeze on all settlement activity, including so-called natural growth, and the dismantlement of all settlement outposts erected since March 2001, and the need for Israel to uphold its obligations and commitments in this regard,

Recalling also its resolution 67/19 of 29 November 2012,

Noting the accession by Palestine to several human rights treaties and the core humanitarian law conventions, as well as other international treaties,

Aware that Israeli settlement activities involve, inter alia, the transfer of nationals of the occupying Power into the occupied territories, the confiscation of land, the forced transfer of Palestinian civilians, including Bedouin families, the exploitation of natural resources, the fragmentation of territory and other actions against the Palestinian civilian population and the civilian population in the occupied Syrian Golan that are contrary to international law,

Bearing in mind the extremely detrimental impact of Israeli settlement policies, decisions and activities on the ongoing regional and international efforts to resume and advance the peace process, on the prospects for the achievement of peace in the Middle East in accordance with the two-State solution of Israel and Palestine, living side by side in peace and security within recognized borders, on the basis of the pre-1967 borders, and on the viability and credibility of that solution,

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[4] See A/ES-10/273 and A/ES-10/273/Corr.1.

[5] Ibid., advisory opinion, para. 120.

[6] A/HRC/34/70; see also A/72/556.

[7] A/HRC/22/63.

[8] A/69/711-S/2015/1, annex.

[9] A/48/486-S/26560, annex.

[10] S/2003/529, annex.

Expressing grave concern about the continuation by Israel, the occupying Power, of settlement activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and condemning those activities as violations of international humanitarian law, relevant United Nations resolutions, the agreements reached between the parties and obligations under the Quartet road map and as actions in defiance of the calls by the international community to cease all settlement activities,

Deploring in particular Israel's construction and expansion of settlements in and around occupied East Jerusalem, including its so-called E-1 plan that aims to connect its illegal settlements around and further isolate occupied East Jerusalem, the continuing demolition of Palestinian homes and eviction of Palestinian families from the city, the revocation of Palestinian residency rights in the city, and ongoing settlement activities in the Jordan Valley, all of which further fragment and undermine the contiguity of the Occupied Palestinian Territory,

Taking note of the Quartet report of 1 July 2016,[11] and stressing its recommendations, as well as its recent statements, including of 30 September 2015, 23 October 2015, 12 February 2016 and 23 September 2016, in which the Quartet members concluded that, inter alia, the continuing policy of settlement construction and expansion, designation of land for exclusive Israeli use and denial of Palestinian development, including the recent high rate of demolitions, are steadily eroding the two-State solution,

Deploring the continuing unlawful construction by Israel of the wall inside the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, and expressing its concern, in particular, about the route of the wall in departure from the Armistice Line of 1949, which is causing humanitarian hardship and a serious decline of socioeconomic conditions for the Palestinian people, is fragmenting the territorial contiguity of the Territory and undermining its viability, and could prejudge future negotiations and make the two-State solution physically impossible to implement,

Deeply concerned that the wall's route has been traced in such a way as to include the great majority of the Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

Condemning acts of violence and terror against civilians on both sides, and recalling the need to end all acts of violence, including acts of terror, provocation, incitement and destruction,

Condemning also all acts of violence, destruction, harassment, provocation and incitement by Israeli settlers in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, against Palestinian civilians, including children, and their properties, including historic and religious sites, and agricultural lands, as well as acts of terror by several extremist Israeli settlers, and calling for accountability for the illegal actions perpetrated in this regard,

Taking note of the relevant reports of the Secretary-General, including pursuant to Security Council resolution 2334 (2016),[12]

Noting the special meeting of the Security Council convened on 26 September 2008, as well as the meeting of the Council of 18 February 2011,

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[11] S/2016/595, annex.

[12] A/72/296, A/72/314, A/72/538, A/72/539, A/72/564 and A/72/565.

1. *Reaffirms* that the Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan are illegal and an obstacle to peace and economic and social development;

2. *Calls upon* Israel to accept the de jure applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,[1] to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and to the occupied Syrian Golan and to abide scrupulously by the provisions of the Convention, in particular article 49, and to comply with all of its obligations under international law and cease immediately all actions causing the alteration of the character, status and demographic composition of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the occupied Syrian Golan;

3. *Reiterates its demand* for the immediate and complete cessation of all Israeli settlement activities in all of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan, and calls in this regard for the full implementation of all the relevant resolutions of the Security Council, including, inter alia, resolutions 446 (1979), 452 (1979) of 20 July 1979, 465 (1980), 476 (1980), 1515 (2003) of 19 November 2003 and 2334 (2016);

4. *Recalls* the affirmation by the Security Council, in its resolution 2334 (2016), that it will not recognize any changes to the 4 June 1967 lines, including with regard to Jerusalem, other than those agreed by the parties through negotiations;

5. *Condemns* settlement activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan and any activities involving the confiscation of land, the disruption of the livelihood of protected persons, the forced transfer of civilians and the de facto annexation of land;

6. *Calls for* the consideration of measures of accountability, in accordance with international law, in the light of continued non-compliance with the demands for a complete and immediate cessation of all settlement activities, stressing that compliance with and respect for international humanitarian law and international human rights law is a cornerstone for peace and security in the region;

7. *Stresses* that a complete cessation of all Israeli settlement activities is essential for salvaging the two-State solution on the basis of the pre-1967 borders, and calls for affirmative steps to be taken immediately to reverse the negative trends on the ground that are imperilling the viability of the two-State solution;

8. *Demands* that Israel, the occupying Power, comply with its legal obligations, as mentioned in the advisory opinion rendered on 9 July 2004 by the International Court of Justice;[4]

9. *Reiterates its call* for the prevention of all acts of violence, destruction, harassment and provocation by Israeli settlers, especially against Palestinian civilians and their properties, including historic and religious sites and including in Occupied East Jerusalem, and their agricultural lands;

10. *Calls for* accountability for the illegal actions perpetrated by Israeli settlers in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, and stresses in this regard the need for the implementation of Security Council resolution 904 (1994), in which the Council called upon Israel, the occupying Power, to continue to take and implement measures, including the confiscation of arms, aimed at preventing illegal acts of violence by Israeli settlers, and called for measures to be taken to guarantee the safety and protection of the Palestinian civilians in the occupied territory;

11. *Stresses* the responsibility of Israel, the occupying Power, to investigate all acts of settler violence against Palestinian civilians and their properties and to ensure accountability for these acts;

12. *Calls upon* all States and international organizations to continue to actively pursue policies that ensure respect for their obligations under international law with regard to all illegal Israeli practices and measures in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, particularly Israeli settlement activities;

13. *Recalls*, in this regard, the statement of 15 July 1999 and the declarations adopted on 5 December 2001 and on 17 December 2014[8] by the Conference of High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention on measures to enforce the Convention in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and welcomes in this regard initiatives by States parties, both individually and collectively, in accordance with article 1 of the Convention, aimed at ensuring respect for the Convention;

14. *Also recalls* that the Security Council, in its resolution 2334 (2016), called upon all States to distinguish, in their relevant dealings, between the territory of the State of Israel and the territories occupied since 1967;

15. *Calls upon* all States, consistent with their obligations under international law and the relevant resolutions, and bearing in mind the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice of 9 July 2004, not to render aid or assistance in maintaining the situation created by illegal settlement activities;

16. *Calls upon* the relevant United Nations bodies to take all necessary measures and actions within their mandates to ensure full respect for and compliance with Human Rights Council resolution 17/4 of 16 June 2011,[13] concerning the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights[14] and other relevant international laws and standards, and to ensure the implementation of the United Nations "Protect, Respect and Remedy" Framework, which provides a global standard for upholding human rights in relation to business activities that are connected with Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventy-third session on the implementation of the present resolution.

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[13] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 53* (A/66/53), chap. III, sect. A.

[14] A/HRC/17/31, annex.

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[*on the report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) (A/72/448)*]

72/87. Israeli practices affecting the human rights of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[1]

Recalling also the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[2] the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights[2] and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[3] and affirming that these human rights instruments must be respected in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

Reaffirming its relevant resolutions, including resolution 71/98 of 6 December 2016, as well as those adopted at its tenth emergency special session,

Recalling the relevant resolutions of the Human Rights Council,

Recalling also the relevant resolutions of the Security Council, and stressing the need for their implementation,

Having considered the report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories[4] and the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Special Committee,[5]

[1] Resolution 217 A (III).
[2] See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.
[3] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.
[4] A/72/539.
[5] A/72/296.

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Taking note of the recent reports of the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967,[6] as well as of other relevant recent reports of the Human Rights Council,

Taking note also of the recent report by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia on the economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan,[7]

Deeply regretting that 50 years have passed since the onset of the Israeli occupation, and stressing the urgent need for efforts to reverse the negative trends on the ground and to restore a political horizon for advancing and accelerating meaningful negotiations aimed at the achievement of a peace agreement that will bring a complete end to the Israeli occupation that began in 1967 and the resolution of all core final status issues, without exception, leading to a peaceful, just, lasting and comprehensive solution of the question of Palestine,

Aware of the responsibility of the international community to promote human rights and ensure respect for international law, and recalling in this regard its resolution 2625 (XXV) of 24 October 1970,

Recalling the advisory opinion rendered on 9 July 2004 by the International Court of Justice on the legal consequences of the construction of a wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory,[8] and recalling also General Assembly resolutions ES-10/15 of 20 July 2004 and ES-10/17 of 15 December 2006,

Noting in particular the Court's reply, including that the construction of the wall being built by Israel, the occupying Power, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, and its associated regime are contrary to international law,

Taking note of its resolution 67/19 of 29 November 2012,

Noting the accession by Palestine to several human rights treaties and the core humanitarian law conventions, as well as other international treaties,

Reaffirming the principle of the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force,

Reaffirming also the applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,[9] to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967,

Reaffirming further the obligation of the States parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention[9] under articles 146, 147 and 148 with regard to penal sanctions, grave breaches and responsibilities of the High Contracting Parties,

Recalling the statement of 15 July 1999 and the declarations adopted on 5 December 2001 and on 17 December 2014[10] by the Conference of High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention on measures to enforce the Convention in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, aimed

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[6] A/HRC/34/70; see also A/72/556.

[7] A/72/90-E/2017/71.

[8] See A/ES-10/273 and A/ES-10/273/Corr.1.

[9] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, No. 973.

[10] A/69/711-S/2015/1, annex.

at ensuring respect for the Convention in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

Reaffirming that all States have the right and the duty to take actions in conformity with international law and international humanitarian law to counter deadly acts of violence against their civilian population in order to protect the lives of their citizens,

Stressing the need for full compliance with the Israeli-Palestinian agreements reached within the context of the Middle East peace process, including the Sharm el-Sheikh understandings, and the implementation of the Quartet road map to a permanent two-State solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict,[11]

Stressing also the need for the full implementation of the Agreement on Movement and Access and the Agreed Principles for the Rafah Crossing, both of 15 November 2005, to allow for the freedom of movement of the Palestinian civilian population within and into and out of the Gaza Strip,

Gravely concerned by the tensions and violence in the recent period throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem and including with regard to the holy places of Jerusalem, including the Haram al-Sharif, and deploring the loss of innocent civilian life,

Recognizing that security measures alone cannot remedy the escalating tensions, instability and violence, and calling for full respect for international law, including humanitarian and human rights law, including for the protection of civilian life, as well as for the promotion of human security, the de-escalation of the situation, the exercise of restraint, including from provocative actions and rhetoric, and the establishment of a stable environment conducive to the pursuit of peace,

Expressing grave concern about the continuing systematic violation of the human rights of the Palestinian people by Israel, the occupying Power, including that arising from the excessive use of force and military operations causing death and injury to Palestinian civilians, including children, women and non-violent, peaceful demonstrators; the arbitrary imprisonment and detention of Palestinians, some of whom have been imprisoned for decades; the use of collective punishment; the closure of areas; the confiscation of land; the establishment and expansion of settlements; the construction of a wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory in departure from the Armistice Line of 1949; the destruction of property and infrastructure; the forced displacement of civilians, including attempts at forced transfers of Bedouin communities; and all other actions by it designed to change the legal status, geographical nature and demographic composition of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

Gravely concerned by the ongoing demolition by Israel, the occupying Power, of Palestinian homes, as well as of structures, including schools, provided as international humanitarian aid, in particular in and around Occupied East Jerusalem, including if carried out as an act of collective punishment in violation of international humanitarian law, which has escalated at unprecedented rates, and by the revocation of residence permits and eviction of Palestinian residents of the City of Jerusalem,

Deploring the continuing and negative consequences of the conflicts in and around the Gaza Strip, most recently in July and August 2014, and the thousands of civilian casualties caused, along with the widespread destruction of thousands of homes and vital civilian infrastructure, the internal displacement of hundreds of

[11] S/2003/529, annex.

thousands of civilians, and any violations of international law, including humanitarian and human rights law, in this regard,

Gravely concerned about the disastrous humanitarian situation and the critical socioeconomic and security situation in the Gaza Strip, including that resulting from the prolonged closures and severe economic and movement restrictions that in effect amount to a blockade and deepen poverty and despair among the Palestinian civilian population,

Expressing grave concern about the alarming conditions and figures reflected in the United Nations country team reports of 26 August 2016, entitled "Gaza: two years after", and of July 2017, entitled "Gaza ten years later",

Recalling the statement by the President of the Security Council of 28 July 2014,[12]

Stressing the need for the full implementation by all parties of Security Council resolution 1860 (2009) of 8 January 2009 and General Assembly resolution ES-10/18 of 16 January 2009,

Stressing also that the situation in the Gaza Strip is unsustainable and that a durable ceasefire agreement must lead to a fundamental improvement in the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip, including through the sustained and regular opening of crossing points, and ensure the safety and well-being of civilians on both sides, and regretting the lack of progress made in this regard,

Gravely concerned by reports regarding serious human rights violations and grave breaches of international humanitarian law committed during the military operations in the Gaza Strip between December 2008 and January 2009, including the findings in the summary by the Secretary-General of the report of the Board of Inquiry[13] and in the report of the United Nations Fact-finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict,[14] and the findings of the United Nations Headquarters Board of Inquiry into certain incidents that occurred in the Gaza Strip between 8 July and 26 August 2014[15] and of the independent commission of inquiry established pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution S-21/1,[16] and reiterating the necessity for serious follow-up by all parties of the recommendations addressed to them towards ensuring accountability and justice,

Stressing the need for protection of human rights defenders engaged in the promotion of human rights issues in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, to allow them to carry out their work freely and without fear of attacks and harassment,

Expressing deep concern about the short- and long-term detrimental impact of widespread destruction and the continued impeding of the reconstruction process by Israel, the occupying Power, on the human rights situation and on the socioeconomic and humanitarian conditions of the Palestinian civilian population,

Expressing deep concern also about the Israeli policy of closures and the imposition of severe restrictions, including through hundreds of obstacles to movement, checkpoints and a permit regime, all of which obstruct the freedom of movement of persons and goods, including medical and humanitarian goods, and the

[12] S/PRST/2014/13; see *Resolutions and Decisions of the Security Council, 1 August 2013–31 July 2014* (S/INF/69).
[13] See A/63/855-S/2009/250.
[14] A/HRC/12/48.
[15] See S/2015/286, annex.
[16] A/HRC/29/52.

follow-up and access to donor-funded projects of development cooperation and humanitarian assistance, throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and impair the Territory's contiguity, consequently violating the human rights of the Palestinian people and negatively impacting their socioeconomic and humanitarian situation, which remains dire in the Gaza Strip, and the efforts aimed at rehabilitating and developing the Palestinian economy, while taking note of developments with regard to the situation of access there and the resumption of some trade from Gaza to the West Bank for the first time since 2007, and calling for the full lifting of restrictions,

Expressing grave concern that thousands of Palestinians, including many children and women, as well as elected representatives, continue to be held in Israeli prisons or detention centres under harsh conditions, including unhygienic conditions, solitary confinement, the extensive use of administrative detention of excessive duration without charge and denial of due process, lack of proper medical care and widespread medical neglect, including for prisoners who are ill, with the risk of fatal consequences, and denial of family visits, that impair their well-being, and expressing grave concern also about the ill-treatment and harassment and all reports of torture of any Palestinian prisoners,

Expressing deep concern about the recent hunger strikes by numerous Palestinian prisoners in protest of the harsh conditions of their imprisonment and detention by the occupying Power, while taking note of agreements reached on conditions of detention in Israeli prisons and calling for their full and immediate implementation,

Recalling the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules)[14] and the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules),[15] and calling for respect for those Rules,

Recalling also the prohibition under international humanitarian law of the deportation of civilians from occupied territories,

Deploring the practice of withholding the bodies of those killed, and calling for the release of the bodies that have not yet been returned to their relatives, in line with international humanitarian law and human rights law, in order to ensure dignified closure in accordance with their religious beliefs and traditions,

Stressing the need for the prevention of all acts of violence, harassment, provocation and incitement by extremist Israeli settlers and groups of armed settlers, especially against Palestinian civilians, including children, and their properties, including homes, agricultural lands and historic and religious sites, including in Occupied East Jerusalem, and deploring the violation of the human rights of Palestinians in this regard, including acts of violence leading to death and injury among civilians,

Convinced of the need for an international presence to monitor the situation, to contribute to ending the violence and protecting the Palestinian civilian population and to help the parties to implement the agreements reached, and in this regard recalling the positive contribution of the Temporary International Presence in Hebron,

Noting the continued efforts and tangible progress made in the Palestinian security sector, and noting also the continued cooperation that benefits both Palestinians and Israelis, in particular by promoting security and building

[14] Resolution 70/175, annex.

[15] Resolution 65/229, annex.

confidence, and expressing the hope that such progress will be extended to all major population centres,

Urging the parties to observe calm and restraint and to refrain from provocative actions, incitement and inflammatory rhetoric, especially in areas of religious and cultural sensitivity, including in East Jerusalem, and to take every possible step to defuse tensions and promote conditions conducive to the credibility and success of the peace negotiations,

Emphasizing the right of all people in the region to the enjoyment of human rights as enshrined in the international human rights covenants,

1. *Reiterates* that all measures and actions taken by Israel, the occupying Power, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, in violation of the relevant provisions of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,[*] and contrary to the relevant resolutions of the Security Council, are illegal and have no validity;

2. *Demands* that Israel, the occupying Power, cease all practices and actions that violate the human rights of the Palestinian people, including the killing and injury of civilians, the arbitrary detention and imprisonment of civilians, the forced displacement of civilians, including attempts at forced transfers of Bedouin communities, the destruction and confiscation of civilian property, including home demolitions, including if carried out as collective punishment in violation of international humanitarian law, and any obstruction of humanitarian assistance, and that it fully respect human rights law and comply with its legal obligations in this regard, including in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions;

3. *Also demands* that Israel, the occupying Power, comply fully with the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949[*] and cease immediately all measures and actions taken in violation and in breach of the Convention;

4. *Calls for* urgent measures to ensure the safety and protection of the Palestinian civilian population in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, in accordance with the relevant provisions of international humanitarian law and as called for by the Security Council in its resolution 904 (1994) of 18 March 1994;

5. *Also calls for* full cooperation by Israel with the relevant special rapporteurs and other relevant mechanisms and inquiries of the Human Rights Council, including the facilitation of entry to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, for monitoring and reporting on the human rights situation therein according to their respective mandates;

6. *Demands* that Israel, the occupying Power, cease all of its settlement activities, the construction of the wall and any other measures aimed at altering the character, status and demographic composition of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, all of which, inter alia, gravely and detrimentally impact the human rights of the Palestinian people, and the prospects for achieving without delay an end to the Israeli occupation that began in 1967 and a just, lasting and comprehensive peace settlement between the Palestinian and Israeli sides, and calls for the full respect and implementation of all relevant General Assembly and Security Council resolutions to this regard, including Security Council resolution 2334 (2016) of 23 December 2016;

7. *Calls for* urgent attention to the plight and the rights, in accordance with international law, of Palestinian prisoners and detainees in Israeli jails, including those on hunger strike, calls for efforts between the two sides for the further release of prisoners and detainees, and also calls for respect for the United Nations

Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules)[17] and the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules);[18]

8. *Condemns* all acts of violence, including all acts of terror, provocation, incitement and destruction, especially the excessive use of force by the Israeli occupying forces against Palestinian civilians, particularly in the Gaza Strip, which have caused extensive loss of life and vast numbers of injuries, including among thousands of children and women, massive damage and destruction to homes, economic, industrial and agricultural properties, vital infrastructure, including water, sanitation and electricity networks, religious sites and public institutions, including hospitals and schools, and United Nations facilities, and agricultural lands, and large-scale internal displacement of civilians;

9. *Expresses grave concern* at the firing of rockets against Israeli civilian areas, resulting in loss of life and injury;

10. *Reiterates its demand* for the full implementation of Security Council resolution 1860 (2009);

11. *Demands* that Israel, the occupying Power, comply with its legal obligations under international law, as mentioned in the advisory opinion rendered on 9 July 2004 by the International Court of Justice[5] and as demanded in General Assembly resolutions ES-10/15 and ES-10/13 of 21 October 2003, and that it immediately cease the construction of the wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, dismantle forthwith the structure situated therein, repeal or render ineffective all legislative and regulatory acts relating thereto, and make reparations for all damage caused by the construction of the wall, which has gravely impacted the human rights and the socioeconomic living conditions of the Palestinian people;

12. *Reiterates* the need for respect for the territorial unity, contiguity and integrity of all of the Occupied Palestinian Territory and for guarantees of the freedom of movement of persons and goods within the Palestinian territory, including movement into and from East Jerusalem, into and from the Gaza Strip, between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, and to and from the outside world;

13. *Calls upon* Israel, the occupying Power, to cease its imposition of prolonged closures and economic and movement restrictions, including those amounting to a blockade on the Gaza Strip, and in this regard to fully implement the Agreement on Movement and Access and the Agreed Principles for the Rafah Crossing, both of 15 November 2005, in order to allow for the sustained and regular movement of persons and goods and for the acceleration of long overdue and massive reconstruction needs and economic recovery in the Gaza Strip, while noting the tripartite agreement facilitated by the United Nations in this regard;

14. *Urges* Member States to continue to provide emergency assistance to the Palestinian people to alleviate the financial crisis and the dire socioeconomic and humanitarian situation, particularly in the Gaza Strip;

15. *Emphasizes* the need to preserve and develop the Palestinian institutions and infrastructure for the provision of vital public services to the Palestinian civilian population and the promotion of human rights, including civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, and welcomes in this regard the agreement signed in Cairo on 12 October 2017,[19] the implementation of which would be an important step towards achieving Palestinian unity and lead to the effective functioning of the Palestinian national consensus government, including in the Gaza Strip, under the

[19] S/2017/893, annex.

leadership of President Mahmoud Abbas, consistent with the Palestine Liberation Organization commitments and the Quartet principles;

16. *Urges* all States and the specialized agencies and organizations of the United Nations system to continue to support and assist the Palestinian people in the early realization of their inalienable human rights, including their right to self-determination, as a matter of urgency, in the light of the fiftieth year of the Israeli occupation and the continued denial and violation of the human rights of the Palestinian people;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventy-third session on the implementation of the present resolution.

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[*on the report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) (A/72/448)*]

72/88. The occupied Syrian Golan

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories,[1]

Deeply concerned that the Syrian Golan, occupied since 1967, has been under continued Israeli military occupation,

Recalling Security Council resolution 497 (1981) of 17 December 1981,

Recalling also its previous relevant resolutions, the most recent of which was resolution 71/99 of 6 December 2016,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General submitted in pursuance of resolution 71/99,[2]

Recalling its previous relevant resolutions in which, inter alia, it called upon Israel to put an end to its occupation of the Arab territories,

Reaffirming once more the illegality of the decision of 14 December 1981 taken by Israel to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration on the occupied Syrian Golan, which has resulted in the effective annexation of that territory,

Reaffirming that the acquisition of territory by force is inadmissible under international law, including the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming also the applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,[3] to the occupied Syrian Golan,

[1] A/72/539.
[2] A/72/538.
[3] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, No. 973.

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Bearing in mind Security Council resolution 237 (1967) of 14 June 1967,

Welcoming the convening at Madrid of the Peace Conference on the Middle East on the basis of Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) of 22 November 1967 and 338 (1973) of 22 October 1973 aimed at the realization of a just, comprehensive and lasting peace, and expressing grave concern about the stalling of the peace process on all tracks,

1. *Calls upon* Israel, the occupying Power, to comply with the relevant resolutions on the occupied Syrian Golan, in particular Security Council resolution 497 (1981), in which the Council, inter alia, decided that the Israeli decision to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration on the occupied Syrian Golan was null and void and without international legal effect and demanded that Israel, the occupying Power, rescind forthwith its decision;

2. *Also calls upon* Israel to desist from changing the physical character, demographic composition, institutional structure and legal status of the occupied Syrian Golan and in particular to desist from the establishment of settlements;

3. *Determines* that all legislative and administrative measures and actions taken or to be taken by Israel, the occupying Power, that purport to alter the character and legal status of the occupied Syrian Golan are null and void, constitute a flagrant violation of international law and of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,[3] and have no legal effect;

4. *Calls upon* Israel to desist from imposing Israeli citizenship and Israeli identity cards on the Syrian citizens in the occupied Syrian Golan, and from its repressive measures against the population of the occupied Syrian Golan;

5. *Deplores* the violations by Israel of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949;

6. *Calls once again upon* Member States not to recognize any of the legislative or administrative measures and actions referred to above;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventy-third session on the implementation of the present resolution.

66th plenary meeting
7 December 2017